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THE NEWSPAPER FOR ASHFORD, TENTERDEN AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES



Issue No 24

Available from Wednesday,
February 20, 2008



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INSIDE

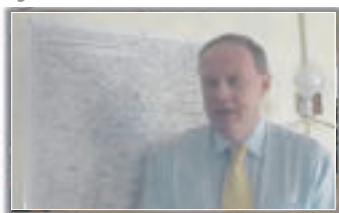


CIS COOPERATIVE INSURANCE

STORE EXPANSION SET FOR GO-AHEAD

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ISSN 1753-117-9



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SAINSBURY'S BANKS ON PLANS

If Sainsbury's win permission from the council to extend its existing store in Simone Weil Avenue the plans include a new entrance lobby, cash machines and nearly 3,000 sq m of extra retail space

BY ED HILL

SUPERMARKET giant Sainsbury's is keeping its fingers crossed its massive expansion plans get the go-ahead tonight as it looks to become one of the biggest stores in the town.

The outlet in Simone Weil Avenue wants to demolish the existing Carpet Right and Harvey's stores on the Warren Retail Park and extend its existing store. New features would include a new entrance lobby and cash machines, and a massive 2,883 sq m of retail space.

The demolished buildings will make way for new landscaping and car parking spaces while the store will expand on to land currently used for parking. Plans also include improvements to the store's restaurant.

The town's planning officer has recommended the planning committee approve the plans when they meet this evening.

The access road from Simone Weil Avenue will be widened on the southern side and an additional stretch of footpath will be added to connect the bus shelter to the entrance of the Ashford International hotel.

In his report into the proposals, the planning officer said the impact of the store on trade in the town centre is likely to be limited.

He also says there is a "quantitative and qualitative need for the development" and that there are no preferable sites in the area.

However, an organisation representing retailers in the town centre has expressed disappointment Sainsbury's did not consider a return to the heart of Ashford.

Viv Kenny, from the Ashford Town Centre Partnership, said: "We did not object to this expansion happening as these stores have to compete

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Getting bigger, getting better

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Where shoppers go to town

COUNTY SQ

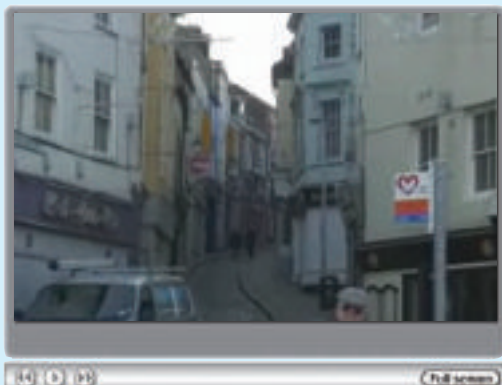
WHAT'S ON & WATCH

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TOP TV CLIPS



1 Elizabeth Harbour, who trained in Maidstone, discusses her career. See the leisure channel @ Yourkenttv.co.uk



2 Folkestone's transformation continues courtesy of the Creative Foundation. See the business channel @ Yourkenttv.co.uk



3 Discover how rugby continues to boom amongst the young. See the sport channel @ Yourkenttv.co.uk

SEE OUR SISTER PAPERS KENT ON SUNDAY AND THE SATURDAY EDITION FOR ALL THE WEEKEND'S COUNTY NEWS AND SPORT

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Husband has to pay up for sacking wife

EXCLUSIVE

BY ED HILL

A WIFE who was sacked from her husband's removal firm has won her case for unfair dismissal.

Trudi Riley, from Smeeth, had worked at international house move specialists Channelmoving.com, based in Lympne, with her husband Berin since it had started in September 2005.

But her employment ended acrimoniously after the couple split after he had an affair – and he sacked her via email.

At an employment tribunal held in Ashford this week, Mrs Riley said the first she had known about losing her job was when she had seen her position being advertised on an employment website on October 5.

The couple had become mired in a messy split since Mr Riley came clean about an affair in August. A month later he moved out and weeks later he was handing her a P45.

Haste

Mrs Riley liaised with crews, unloaded trucks and did office work at the company.

But despite the breakdown of their marriage, she said that she had received no verbal warnings from her husband she was going to lose her job.

It came to a head when, on October 15, she received an email from her husband saying there was no longer a job for her at the company and she should seek employment elsewhere.

The tribunal decided that although she did not have any official contract of employment with the company, the email did amount to a recognised dismissal.

Mr Riley argued that the message had been sent in haste and he did not intend it as a sacking.

He had subsequently offered to carry on employing his wife on a full-



SETTLED: Trudi Riley was awarded £3,012.50

time salary of £18,000 or on a part time basis of 16-hours-per-week.

Guy Sutton, chairman of the tribunal, ruled it was unfair dismissal.

Mr Riley was ordered by the tribunal to pay his wife £3,012.50 in earnings from the time she left until March this year when she takes up new employment.

Speaking after the ruling, Mrs Riley said: "I feel over the moon. I had put my heart and soul in the business and wanted to continue to work there. It is sad that it has come to this, but I feel I have stood up for what is right. The amount awarded is not important."

Berin Riley said: "It was unfortunate that it got to this stage. This is a very difficult period for both of us while we go through the divorce."

"This case was only brought as an extension of the settlement we are going through."

Email yourashford@kosmedia.co.uk

New cycle paths are part of development

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

with other similar stores on out-of-town sites. It is a shame that Sainsbury's do not seem to be thinking about investing in the town centre."

A Sainsbury's spokesperson said: "We have made this application so we can have a general expansion of the store and improve our facilities for customers."

"We want to widen the range of goods we can offer shoppers."

The plans also mention new cycle paths should be included as part of the development.

Sainsbury's will also have to make a contribution towards a future cycle bridge that would cross the M20 at junction nine, connecting Simone Weil Avenue with the Eureka Park.

A report from Natural England, which was set up by the Government to protect the countryside, did not object to the development although they have asked that two bat boxes be put up when the replanting of the landscaping scheme is finished.

yourashford

NEWS IN BRIEF

Socatot promotes kids' football scheme

A SIX-foot tall football mascot will be in the town centre this Saturday.

Socatot is the mascot for the world's first soccer play programme aimed at pre-school children.

Socatots is designed to develop mental and physical development while having fun with a ball.

It also gives parents the chance to spend quality time with their children.

Parents can find out more by calling Ben Moyle on 01233 330475 or visit www.ashford.gov.uk.

A 'real treat' coming to County Square

THE Salvation Army choir will be performing at County Square shopping centre this Saturday.

The 50-strong choral group are travelling all the way from Birmingham to perform at the centre.

They say they hope to provide a welcome break from the sound of drills and digging that has been going on in Ashford during the town's regeneration.

Frances Burt commercial manager at County Square said: "It will be a real treat."

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Rising stars tune in for battle of bands

■ BY ED HILL

THE hunt for the next big thing has got underway at the Downtown Diner as war is waged in a battle of the bands contest.

Quickly established as a thriving scene for local musical talent, the Park Street venue is now hoping to bring the cream of the crop to its table.

Held over four Sundays, big crowds have already started flocking to the events – the natural progression to its regular hit weekend performances.

Sue Bell, who promotes the evenings with a view to showcasing the fast emerging young talent in the town, explains: "The trouble is that at most other venues you have to be older than 18 to play there. The great thing about the Downtown Diner is that you can have younger people at the venue."

Mrs Bell started the evenings last September with musicians and audience members as young as 14.

Now the excitement is mounting over the battle of the bands competition.

She said: "We had so many young bands wanting to play that I thought this would be a good way to give everyone some time on stage. The only rule is that at least one of the band members has to be 18 or under."

"We are holding it over four Sundays in a row. Six bands play and the two top bands go through to the final."

Mrs Bell says the evenings not only highlight young talent in the town but it is also a safe environment for young people to spend time.



ENTERTAINING: Owner of the Downtown Diner Gary Epps and promoter of the popular music nights, Sue Bell. Picture: ED HILL

"In a way it is a bit like a youth club," she says. "It's somewhere the youngsters can meet and enjoy the bands, but they are also in a safe environment. I am a parent myself and it is good to know that your children are safe."

Now she hopes the evenings will help to kick start the young musicians' musical careers.

She added: "There is a lot of talent in the area. It's all really about giving them an experience they can go to regularly."

Beware bogus letter scams

TRADING standards officers in the town are spearheading a countywide campaign to crackdown on bogus letter scams.

Amid fears the elderly and vulnerable are being duped, the office is leading a push for letters which claim to bring news of huge cash prizes or a share in a bumper handout.

Many of the letters originate from abroad – despite appearing to come from the UK.

One of the most frequently reported cases is a letter notifying the householders they have won a share in a Euro Lottery jackpot.

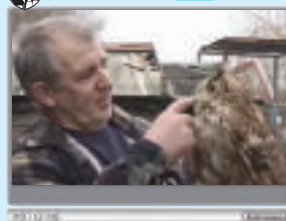
Now trading standards officers are urging residents who receive such letters to take them to the town's library. They will then be collected on Wednesday, February 27, to be investigated.

For more details, or if you feel you may be being targeted, call Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06. Bogus mailings can be sent to Trading Standards Advice, Freepost, SEA13607, PO Box 71, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8WB.

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your LOCAL TV ONLINE



Take a look around the Tomar Owl Sanctuary near Mersham

Get on your marks for this year's Race for Life

THOUSANDS of women will take their place at starting lines all over the county when this year's Cancer Research UK Race for Life gets under way with the women of Ashford urged to step up to the challenge.

Nine Race for Life events will take part in Kent between May and June, including one at Victoria Park on June 29.

Organisers are hoping for a huge turnout as the women-only event takes shape.

Organiser Natasha Etienne, said: "In Kent we're looking to break the £1.6 million mark."

"We raised £1.5 million last year in the county, and so hope we can go one better this time around."

"I would like to invite all women to Race for Life. But spaces are filling up fast so sign-up today."

"You can walk, jog or run it's the taking part that counts."

For more information on the Race for Life and how you can get involved, visit www.raceforlife.org or call the helpline on 0871 641 2282.

Council chief urges patience as ring road saga rolls on

NEW funding has been granted to ensure Ashford's ring road is completed as planned as council leader Paul Clokie prepares to urge councillors and residents not to lose faith in the turbulent project.

Amid a sea of traffic cones, the transformation of the one-way road into two-way has sparked a political war of words between Ashford council and Kent County Council, which is managing the project.

But in an address to be made to full council tomorrow, Mr Clokie says he is determined to make it work and has called a truce with KCC's highways chief.

Inconsistent

Mr Clokie will say: "The project has taken too long. It has not been consistently well managed. But I believe the scheme – when it is complete – will prove to be of lasting and significant benefit to the town and the borough."

■ BY GARETH ARNOLD

"I do not want to engage in recriminations – looking forward, I believe we can take encouragement from the fact the new KCC project manager, Jamie Watson, is getting a grip on the project, and is receiving strong support from colleagues within Kent Highway Services."

"It is also very good to know that Keith Ferrin, as the responsible cabinet member at KCC, is taking a direct personal interest in the scheme and has a clear grasp of what needs to be done in order to bring it to a successful conclusion."

"I am also pleased to be able to confirm the Ashford's Future Partnership has agreed to allocate additional funding to the ring road scheme during 2008/09 so that it can be completed as planned."

"I can only say that the hour before dawn is always the darkest."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Hospice's donation
from kind shoppers

PARK Mall bosses have presented a bumper cheque to charity – as the result of generous shoppers' donations.

A total of £650.40 was handed over to the Demelza House Children's Hospice, based in Sittingbourne.

The money was collected in the run-up to Christmas by collections in the shopping centre – most notably by a man dressed as Santa.

And the Park Mall Christmas colouring competition for children proved a huge hit, attracting a fantastic variety of entries.

Youngsters worked hard to win one of three fabulous prizes, including a must-have MP3 player, a game voucher and a Keel Toys designer teddy bear.



CHILDREN: The cheque for Demelza House

Snooker man on the
ball for charity event

SNOOKER legend Willie Thorne will be coming to town in May for a special charity sportsman's dinner.

Mr Thorne, 53, was one of the stars of snooker's golden age of the Eighties – and even featured in Chas 'n' Dave's classic hit Snooker Loopy.

Now an established snooker commentator for the BBC, he also returned to our screens on Strictly Come Dancing.

He will be star guest at an event in aid of the local charity Find A Voice, which supports adults and children with communication problems.

Joy Butcher executive director of Find A Voice, said: "Willie will be giving a fascinating insight into life as a snooker player as well as his experiences on Strictly Come Dancing."

The event at the Holiday Inn on Canterbury Road at May 9 starts at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £35 each of a table of ten costs £300.

To book call Find A Voice on 01233 640443 or email joy@findavoice.org.uk.

Your MP backs our campaign to beat the benefit cheats

■ BY ED HILL

DAMIAN Green has thrown his weight behind our campaign to crackdown on benefit cheats.

The Conservative MP and shadow minister for immigration says he is supporting the Your Money – Your Loss! campaign launched by Yourashford earlier this month in conjunction with Ashford council.

And he wholeheartedly agreed with the key message – that by making fraudulent claims for benefit you are stealing money from every taxpayer in the borough.

Speaking to Yourashford, Mr Green said: "Benefit fraud is not a victimless crime because at the end of the day we all suffer because of it.

"Money is being taken from people who don't deserve it and being denied to those that do.

"And the more we can tackle that, the more we can help people who genuinely need it through either disability low incomes or old age.

"I am extremely keen to support this campaign because I know many people resent the fact that people get away with benefit fraud."

Since April 2007 the council's fraud team have managed to crack cases involving



£135,000 of dishonestly claimed benefits and taken action against dozens of other cases.

The Tory MP says he is only too familiar with the problem due to the number of times the issues is raised by his constituents.

He said: "The people who are most keen to stamp out benefit fraud are the ones who can see it going on their streets.

"I have people who come to me from the poorer areas in Ashford saying that they do everything they can to get by but then they can see someone living the high life just up the road."

Mr Green said: "What we need to do is create

a culture where this sort of thing is seen as unacceptable.

"Thirty years ago drinking and driving was regarded as a bit of a joke and you did not condemn people for it, but now it is unacceptable behaviour. I hope we can get to the stage where benefit fraud is considered in the same way."

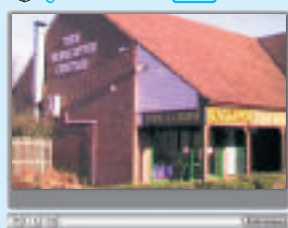
You can see more about what the MP thinks regarding benefit fraud as well as other recent topics on our free, broadband, TV channel – www.yourkenttv.co.uk.

If you are aware of a benefit cheat you can call the council's free and confidential hotline on 08000 262456 or call 01233 330 453.

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Singleton keeps on growing

FOR many years, Singleton was at the heart of Ashford's new housing boom.

Created in the 1980s as a new suburb, it was responsible for introducing hundreds of homes to the borough complete with its own shopping area and picturesque lake.

Today, it remains a hugely popular area with househunters despite the development boom in new homes built elsewhere in and around the growth town.

On our free, broadband, TV channel – www.yourkenttv.co.uk – our roving reporter Julie Maddocks, the popular former BBC Radio Kent presenter who is now spearheading our online

video site, takes a look at how it has developed over the years.

She speaks to local estate agents and asks a key question for those considering a move to Singleton.

Just what can the househunter with a budget of up to £300,000 expect to get for their money?

And how does it compare to the other estates springing up in a town identified as one of the South East's key growth areas?

Andy Stevens of estate agents Stevens & Co said: "Singleton has got everything you want in a local community without having to go into town and get involved in the traffic."

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Picture: ED HILL

DANGEROUS: Worried residents concerned over illegal parking problems near Pluckley's railway station

Villagers suffer trains, pains and automobiles

PARKING problems around Pluckley train station is fast-tracking a serious accident, say worried residents.

Commuters desperate to avoid paying for car parking spaces have been leaving their vehicles, sometimes illegally, infuriating increasingly concerned villagers.

James Buss, landlord of the nearby Dering Arms, said: "The main problem is as you come over the humpback bridge from the Bethersden direction. Suddenly you can find yourself confronted by a car right in front of you parked at the roadside."

Locals say the parking problems around the station have become more dangerous over the last 18 months.

Mr Buss said: "The traffic travels very fast and there are lots of big tractors and lorries that use this road. There are lots of roads all crossing at the same place and people often don't give way."

Tempers have been further frayed as some residents find the access to their homes restricted by the parking chaos.

A local resident who did not wish to be named said: "I have had people park right

■ BY ED HILL

across my drive. They were parked there for two days. I have a job where I have to use my car. I could not get to work."

Mr Buss added: "It affects us as a business because sometimes it is hard for people to park near the pub. We also have delivery lorries which find it very difficult to get round the corners of the roads. Many of the cars are parked illegally on verges and bits of land."

Residents say that the drivers are often just trying to avoid paying the £2.80 daily parking fee at the station.

Mr Buss said: "We often see 30 cars all parked in these spots and yet there may still be 20 spaces left in the car park."

"What we need is people getting a £40 fine each day then they would soon stop. Wardens do occasionally come round if we report things as being really bad but a £40 fine every couple of years is not enough of a deterrent."

PCSO officer Paul Moorey said: "We have been to the site with the officer that deals with road policing and he is going to make a safety report with recommendations to the highways department."

Getting hands on with a sport team

IT MAY not be as glamorous as football, or as popular as cricket or rugby, but a growing band of handball fans are boosting the sport.

So our intrepid sports team thought it only fair to go and check it out for themselves – by attending and taking part in a training session for local side the Ashford Tanners.

Reporters Tom Howard and David Pritchard swapped their suits for sports gear and got experience of the sport first hand.

And you can check it out for yourself by logging-on to our free, broadband, TV site – www.yourkenttv.co.uk.

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yourashford NEWS IN BRIEF

Help to make homes energy efficient

THE 'Energy Doctors' are visiting homes around the borough from now until the end of the month.

The advice is being given in partnership with the Kent Energy Centre based in the town.

The experts will advise homeowners on how they can make their property more environmentally friendly.

The scheme is being targeted at homeowners and private tenants who have to deal with recent hikes in their fuel bill costs.

There will be advice on how householders can access grants for discounted loft and cavity wall installation.

Residents on certain benefits may also be entitled to free central heating and insulating materials. The free home visits are initially only being offered to selected residents, primarily the elderly, vulnerable and those on low-incomes.

For more details, contact the Kent Energy Centre, on freephone 0800 358 6669 – quoting reference HV2.

Blind gold medal runner inspires school pupils

PARALYMPIC gold medallist runner Tim Prendergast visited children at the North School recently.

His visit was part of a campaign designed to inspire young children through sport. It is sponsored by Sky TV and organised by the Youth Sport Trust.

Mr Prendergast, from New Zealand and winner of gold for the 800m in Athens, met with a group of Year 8 and 9 pupils aged 12-14 and shared with them his achievements and gave a motivational talk.

He has suffered nearly 90 per cent loss of his vision and will be running in the 1,500 and 5,000 metres at the Beijing Paralympics.

Trust on recruitment drive at County Square

THE Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust will be visiting County Square on March 19 in its recruitment drive for support for its switch to foundation status.

The trust, which provides mental health care across the county, is applying for a change in its status and needs 10,000 people to become members.

If foundation status is granted, all will then be able to have a say in how mental health-care is provided, as the switch allows more control over finances and services.

Find out how to become a member by visiting www.kmpt.nhs.uk or visit the road show.

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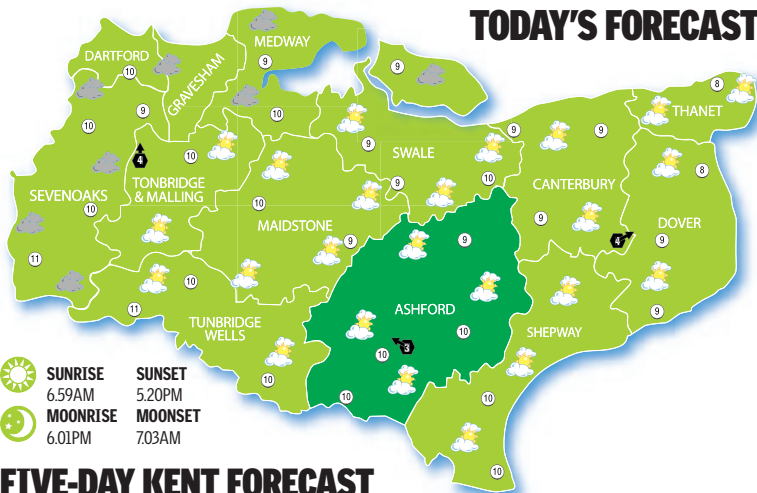


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TODAY'S FORECAST



WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	1:06pm	6.0m
	Sunday	1:45pm	6.1m
Dover	Saturday	11:24am	6.4m
	Sunday	11:58am	6.5m
Dungeness	Saturday	11:18am	7.3m
	Sunday	11:56am	7.5m
Ramsgate	Saturday	11:54am	4.9m
	Sunday	12:28pm	5.0m
Sheerness	Saturday	12:56pm	5.8m
	Sunday	1:35pm	5.8m
Whitstable	Saturday	1:15pm	5.4m
	Sunday	1:55pm	5.3m



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	6°C	Madrid	8°C
Athens	1°C	New York	4°C
Barcelona	12°C	Paris	8°C
Beijing	1°C	Rome	9°C
Bombay	30°C	Sydney	25°C
Cape Town	23°C	Tenerife	22°C
Cardiff	6°C	Tokyo	8°C
Gibraltar	15°C	Vancouver	7°C
Hong Kong	19°C	Warsaw	1°C
Las Palmas	21°C	Wellington	17°C

SUNRISE
6.59AM
SUNSET
5.20PM
MOONRISE
6.01PM
MOONSET
7.03AM

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	10°C	11°C	14°C	11°C	12°C	Gravesend	9°C	10°C	13°C	13°C	14°C
Canterbury	7°C	10°C	13°C	11°C	12°C	Maidstone	10°C	10°C	13°C	12°C	13°C
Chatham	8°C	11°C	13°C	12°C	12°C	Ramsgate	7°C	10°C	13°C	11°C	12°C
Dartford	9°C	10°C	13°C	13°C	14°C	Rochester	8°C	11°C	13°C	12°C	12°C
Dover	7°C	9°C	11°C	9°C	10°C	Sevenoaks	8°C	9°C	12°C	11°C	11°C
Faversham	8°C	11°C	13°C	12°C	12°C	Sittingbourne	8°C	11°C	13°C	12°C	12°C
Folkestone	7°C	9°C	11°C	9°C	10°C	Tonbridge	9°C	11°C	13°C	11°C	11°C
Gillingham	8°C	11°C	13°C	12°C	12°C	Tun Wells	9°C	11°C	13°C	11°C	11°C

Stanhope eco-friendly developments set to get council green light

THE ongoing overhaul of Stanhope is set to gather pace with two more existing blocks of flats set for demolition and replacement with new eco-friendly homes.

The first site is just off the Stanhope Road. If the council's planning committee give it the go-ahead as expected the existing pair of blocks will be replaced by three units which will be a mixture of affordable homes and what is termed 'private sale units'.

The new development will consist of three blocks containing 27 flats at the corner of the site with 13 terraced houses in between.

The second scheme being put forward for planners to consider is at Kilndown Close.

Regulations

In this scheme, another 45 homes are planned consisting of 27 flats and 18 homes.

Both applications have been made by Gleeson Homes - one of the main developers driving the regeneration scheme forward.

The buildings are being constructed to level three of the Government's code of sustainable housing regulations with energy saving measures such as high efficiency boilers.

The planning officer has recommended to the council's planning committee that both developments should proceed.

It will be decided at a meeting at the council's Civic Centre on Thursday.

It all forms part of the £150 million, five-year regeneration of the estate.

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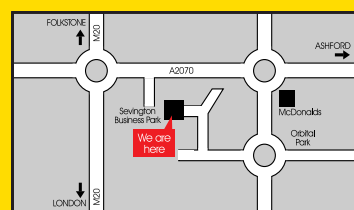
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QUESTION & ANSWER

NICHOLAS HOLBROOK-SUTCLIFFE



Q & A

Nicholas Holbrook-Sutcliffe, director of the Ashford School of Art and Design, talks to Ed Hill about developing the next generation of talent, the history of the school and the role art plays in the community

Q How long have you been associated with the Ashford area?

A I moved here from Bristol in February 2007 when I took over as the director of the Ashford School of Art and Design (ASAD).

Q What do you think of the town and the changes that are happening to it?

A Ashford is well placed to push for the highest quality from our creative workforce and, due to its geographical location (with 50 per cent of creative industry positioned in the South East), Ashford School of Art and Design (ASAD) has a responsibility to develop the highly skilled and industry-ready creative people needed for the future. The key to Ashford's success will be a commitment to bring local residents, workforce and industry along as a unified town, which looks forward to the future and strives for excellence.

Q What is the history of the Ashford School of Art and Design?

A The idea for ASAD arose from South Kent College's ambition to invest in the education of artists and designers in the community. Our aim was to develop a specialist centre of excellence for art and design in a position central to Kent. We have developed a concept that focuses on students' needs, including excellent facilities, student space, and professional teaching, giving students the chance to express themselves fully in a creative environment and enabling them to study with like-minded performers, artists and

designers from further education to our extensive higher education, degree, programmes.

ASAD has grown rapidly over the last four years and receives excellent feedback from external agencies and its students. Strong, mutually beneficial links with regional and national industry ensures students fully understand the realities of working within the creative sector and the many opportunities it presents for future careers. This is balanced with an academic rigour, which ensures students continue to develop the skills required to enhance all areas of their learning. We offer the choice and industry training of an independent art college but with the care and support of a sixth form college.

Q Is the Ashford art scene in good health at the moment?

A With huge commitment and drive from Ashford council and Kent County Council, Ashford is emerging as a centre for the arts in Kent. The people of Ashford are very supportive – this could be seen in the amount of people who came to our end of year show last year. Over 2,500 people attended during the week. Dr Stephen Deuchar, director of Tate Britain, who is local to Ashford and opened the show, stated it was clear to him that "Kent is becoming the arts capital of the country".

Q Can public art play a valuable role as the town changes? What would you say to those who say it is a waste of public money?

A There is no doubt that the creative sector is both wealth-creating and society-enhancing. However, I think it is important that people are involved in artworks that have an effect on their environment so they can have a sense of ownership and pride in the results. I am sensitive to those who say that public art is a "waste of money" but we need to look at the opportunities they may create to draw new people and industry to a town and the increase in business and civic pride it can create for everyone.

Q What is your relationship with modern technology?

A As a college it is important that we deliver industry standards and there is an expectation by prospective students to have access to these facilities. We have wonderful, industry level facilities in all our areas from performing arts, music technology, graphic design, 3D-design, fine art, photography, textiles and multimedia. We have recently revamped our music technology department with an exciting recording studio that is accessed by professional musicians and upgraded all of our 158 Apple Macs. Creativity is what we do and it is all that we do, so we do a very good job of it.

Q Did you have any childhood heroes?

A The one that sticks in my mind is Mrs Wadsworth my art teacher at school. She was passionate about art and education, as she believed they gave people freedom.

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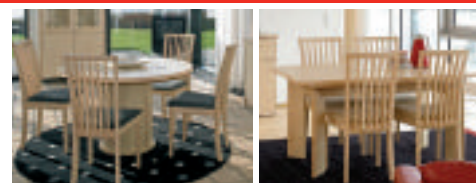
Ambience Solid oak circular dining table and 4 Brighton leather chair
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Victoria Extending oak dining table with 4 Jennifer dining chairs with leather seats.
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Contemporary styles



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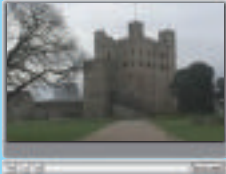
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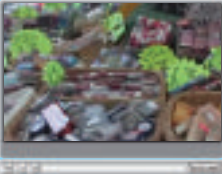
Join the debate sparked by a reader's film... is Margate the jewel in Thanet's crown or a town on the slide?



Discover the history of Rochester Castle and the 1215 battle in King John's fight against rebel barons.



Our business editor Tony Patey takes a look at the health and safety issues pertinent to businesses across the county.



Market traders in Canterbury are fuming over plans to relocate the city's street market into a small back street car park.



Take a remarkable aerial flight over the Medway regeneration zone with our reporter Nick Ames.

EDITOR'S CHOICE

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Radio 1 extravaganza set for tickets rush

BY JON COATES

A HOST of chart-topping bands are set to descend on the county in May as the UK's biggest free music event comes to town.

BBC Radio 1's Big Weekend will take place on May 10 and 11 at Maidstone Mote Park – after breakfast show host Chris Moyles revealed the venue live from Leeds Castle on Friday morning.

But while the excitement begins to grow, the nerves of music fans are beginning to jangle as they try and nab tickets.

There will be around 20,000 tickets available for each day and the majority will go to those living in the county.

Demand

Yet the demand is expected to be huge to catch the likes of Scouting for Girls – the first band confirmed for the show and who performed live in Leeds Castle on Moyles' show.

Last year's event in Preston – which featured the likes of the Scissor Sisters, Kasabian, Stereophonics and Razorlight – had a similar capacity and close to half a million people applied for tickets.

With artists and bands set to be added to the bill over the coming week, the clamour for tickets is expected to only increase.

Listeners will be able to apply online for a pair of the sought-after free tickets closer to the time. Postcodes will be used to ensure those living in the county get the best chance of winning tickets.

DJ Chris Moyles said: "The Big Weekend events are one of the highlights of the year."

"I know that sounds like a line, but it's true. I hope everyone gets excited about it and to



BIG WEEKEND: DJ Chris Moyles and the Radio 1 team will be promoting the Big Weekend at Mote Park in May

the lucky ones that get tickets, trust me, it'll be the best thing Maidstone sees this year."

Scouting for Girls performed She's So Lovely and Elvis Ain't Dead live from a room inside the historic castle during Moyles' show.

Lead singer and guitarist Roy Stride said:

"We have been playing together for about ten years. We are really proud of what we have done, as we are friends from school."

"To be here on Radio 1 and to have a number one album is unbelievable. We are proud to have done it as friends."

VIEW THIS CLIP ON

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Watch Julie Maddocks' interview with Scouting for Girls only on Yourkenttv.

"We are now putting the album out live and have a number of festival dates coming up, but the Big Weekend will be the start of this."

"Hopefully there will be nice weather. Bring it on Maidstone!"

Jason Carter, Radio 1's editor of live music and events, said: "We are very proud to announce Maidstone as the hosts for our eighth Big Weekend."

"With massive line-ups of some of the biggest artists in the UK and from around the world performing in Mote Park, it'll be a great opportunity for Radio 1 to put a national focus on Maidstone and the South East and all that it has to offer."

The local economy hopes to benefit to the tune of around £1.3m.

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Soap and water are the answer



SUPERBUGS: Clostridium difficile cannot be beaten with alcohols, so soap and water must be used. Microbiologist James Nash, left, says resistance to antibiotics is why MRSA has become so prolific and that a new strain of the bug currently being seen in America could be the next challenge facing the NHS



BY JENNA PUDELEK

SIMPLY washing your hands with alcohol gel or liquid soap and water is the best way to help the county's hardworking doctors and nurses in their battle against killer health-care-acquired infections.

Consultant microbiologist James Nash spoke to KOS Media about the main superbugs – MRSA and Clostridium difficile.

Although different in their transmission and symptoms, all bugs are spread by poor hygiene and overuse of antibiotics.

Dr Nash, who is director of infection prevention and control for East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust, said the original superbug MRSA started to emerge in the 1970s, gradually becoming more common and accelerating in the 90s.

He said during this period the NHS did not pay enough attention to cleaning hospitals and controlling the use of antibiotics.

The situation has improved since reaching a crisis in 2000, but has left a legacy of large numbers of people who are MRSA carriers.

Dr Nash said most people have Staphylococcus (Staph) on their skin, but what makes it MRSA (or methicillin-resistant Staph aureus) is resistance to a lot of antibiotics. It is not dangerous when it lives in areas such as the armpits and nose, but it is more difficult to treat when it gets into infections.

Experts believe around three per cent of the population are MRSA carriers, but the rate of carriage rises to 10 to 20 per cent among the elderly. It causes abscesses and boils, and can lead to blood poisoning. It can be spread on the hands through touching a number of patients.

The best way to kill the bug is alcohol gel hand wash, which is now available in all hospital wards. Infections are treated with special antibiotics.

Dr Nash said the UK is fortunate, at the moment, not to have a significant number of cases of the particularly virulent strain currently affecting America – known as C MRSA.

"These have not appeared in this country in any significant numbers, but they may be the

THE NEW THREATS

- **Pseudomonas** is a bacterium found in water and can be a problem if medical equipment is not decontaminated properly. Strains can be resistant to antibiotics, making it difficult to treat and manage.

- **ESBL Klebsiella** is an organism associated with urinary tract infections, which used to be easy to treat with antibiotics. Doctors are now encountering a strain that cannot be treated with oral antibiotics and need intravenous therapy.

- **Acinetobacter** is a bug causing problems in intensive care units because it is resistant to antibiotics.

next thing that comes," he said.

Controlling the use of antibiotics is particularly important in tackling the other infamous superbug – Clostridium difficile.

The gut organism attracted unprecedented media attention after a Healthcare Commission investigation found it was responsible for the deaths of at least 90 patients during two outbreaks in 2004 and 2006 at Maidstone and

Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust hospitals.

Antibiotics kill off a lot of the normal bacteria in the stomach, which allows the C diff that might be there in low numbers to grow, producing a very powerful toxin.

Discovered in 1978, C diff was thought to be a normal outcome for patients on antibiotics.

But in 2000 experts became concerned after reports from the US about a more severe strain of the diarrhoea bug that was killing patients.

It was not until 2004, when two outbreaks at Stoke Mandeville Hospital led to 33 deaths, that the strain arrived in the UK.

Coupled with the outbreaks at Maidstone, NHS trusts now take the infection seriously and rates are low across the country, Dr Nash said.

C diff can be treated with antibiotic or probiotic treatments and in some severe cases patients may have to have surgery to repair damaged intestines. However, alcohols do not kill C diff – soap and water are necessary to defeat the bug's spores.

Dr Nash said: "We think we've moved from it [C diff] being endemic to a situation where we have clusters. We think if we can keep it up we won't see high rates of C diff again."

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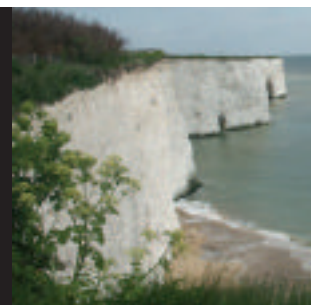
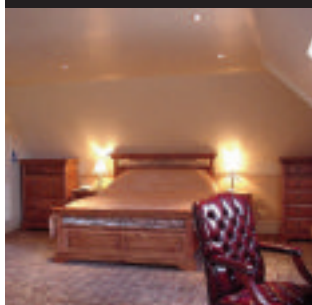
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WOMEN'S SPOTLIGHT

THE RIGHT CHEMISTRY

I'm 27, 5'8", dark hair, blue eyes, enjoy cinema, nightclubs, pubs, nights in and out, seeking a kind male for friendship leading to a LTR. Box 438353

HONESTY & HUMOUR PLEASE!

Attractive female, 29, size 8-10, 5'8", long hair/blue eyes, enjoys gym, cinema, dancing, seeking honest, reliable male 27-35 with a goal, for friendship possible LTR. Box 4010494

LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED

Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013

SEARCHING MR RIGHT

Lively, attractive female, 30, looking to meet that someone special to share life, laughter and love. Box 429124

HOPING FOR MORE

33yr old kind, warm female, 5'8", cuddly build, love walking my dog, cosy nights in, evenings out, WLTm, tall, honest, trustworthy male for friendship. Box 430593

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NO BAGGAGE, SO LET'S PACK!

I'm 33, from Canterbury, non-worker as have health problems, looking to meet someone who's kind, honest, loving and affectionate for romantic times. Box 436785

RAMSATE REVIVAL

Honest, single, outgoing female, 31, 5'11", loves to go out and stay in with good company, dogs, etc. WLTm similar male, for friendship and more. Box 929165

TRY NEW THINGS

Mum of 1, I'm 5'8", blonde hair, slim, young looking, 34yrs old, I'm caring, honest, with a good sense of humour, cinema, dancing, days out. Box 431559

CANTERBURY TALE

Single mum of 2, 32, would like to meet someone kind, caring and considerate, for nights in/out and cinema. Box 406670

AFRICAN ADVENTURE

African lady, 33, brown eyes, likes socialising, music, pubs, looking for a friendly male, for friendship and more. Box 413126

LESSONS IN LOVE

Loving, caring, black African female, 33, school teacher, WLTm caring, honest, loving, open, professional man, 35-50 with good values in life, for something meaningful. Box 401480

OUT OF THE 1?

35yr old woman, young-looking female, 5'4", 360, brown hair/eyes, Tonbridge. Seeks caring, loyal male for friendship, leading to more. Box 433107

HAPPY TIMES

35yr old woman, looking to share happy moments with a loving, caring guy. Box 435380

ROMANCE IS ALIVE

Divorced, lively mum, 35, GSOH, enjoys time with my family and friends, cinema, good food, beach walks, seeks male for honesty, love and romance. Box 813630

SECOND THAT EMOTION

I'm an attractive, dark-skinned female, 36, who enjoys cinema, coffees, theatre and socialising, seeking a fun, caring, considerate, romantic guy, for a chat and more. Box 436817

TRUST MATTERS

Independent, professional female, 35, 5'7", fit, GSOH, enjoys travelling, cinema, looking for a like-minded, honest and loyal male to share life with. Box 901771

TRAVEL HAPPY

Medway female, 36, 5'8", blue/green eyes, slim, likes dancing, amateur dramatics, walks, much more, looking for someone who could make me laugh for possible relationship. Box 434372

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM LIFE?

36 year old female, divorced with no children, brunette, loves travel, music, cinema, life, very loving and caring. 5'5", studying, seeking someone for dates and more. Rainham. Box 434374

NICE SMILE???

Single 36yr old female, like most things in life, very loving and caring. 5'5", custody built, good personality, seeking a gentle, considerate man. Box 431286

SEIZE THE DAY

Loving female, 36, 5'8", brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666

NICE PERSONALITY

Large, bubbly lady, 37, 5'8", like country walks, seaside, bird watching, all music, looking for that special male for good times. Box 435619

PRETTY WOMAN WANTS HER RICHARD GERE

Hi I'm 37, 5'8", mossy long hair, grey eyes, n/s, large bubbly lady, love pubs, country walks, bird-watching, seeking kind, tactful, n'st, possibly romantic! Box 435674

JOIN ME BABY

Fun-loving, vivacious woman, early 40s, enjoys dining out, walking, cinema, looking for a confident man with GSOH, n/s for friendship & maybe more. Box 958889

STRIKE ME!

42, 5'8", slim build, dark hair, blue eyes, GSOH, very active, likes club and cinema, clubs, seeking a male 40-55 for friendship and more! Box 436163

I KNOW YOU WERE WAITING

Loving, caring single mum, 42, loves swimming, walking, nights in/out. Would love to meet somebody special to share life's ups and downs with. Paul, call 435102. Box 987101

HAPPY NATURE

42yr old outgoing female, 5'4", brown hair, green eyes, medium build, enjoy cinema, meals out, seeking a friendly male for friendship. Box 435451

TAKE A CHANCE

Hard-working female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 414156

SPICE UP YOUR LIFE

Professional Asian lady, 30s very west-end, fun-loving and GSOH, WLTm solvent, professional male with no lies for relationship. Box 435922

READ ME!

Love, single Mum, 38, 5'4", blonde, slim build, loves socialising, good fun and chatty, WLTm similar male for fun and laughter, maybe leading to LTR. Box 927816

DON'T PASS ME BY

Cute, single mum of 4, 37, Kent based, most things, looking for friendship or possibly romance. Box 879953

YOUR TIME IS COMING

38yr old bubbly, affectionate woman with a lively personality, 5'5", like reading, walks, pubs, looking for a friendly chap for good times and more. Box 436584

HUGS AND LAUGHS AND CUDDLES

Honest, sincere female, 38, GSOH, live with my children, love a laugh, looking for friendship and hugs with a nice gent. Box 896649

SECURE FUTURE

Honest, caring lady, attractive, from Turbridge Wells, 37, hazy-eyes, curly, 5'8", with a GSOH, many interests, clubs, cooking, cosy nights, looking for stocky male, 35-45. Box 424364

THE EYES HAVE IT

Attractive, trendy, outgoing, warm female, 30, dark brown eyes are a big feature, curvy but slim, like country pubs etc. WLTm spontaneous male for LTR. Box 404329

GET IT TOGETHER

Kind, caring, spiritual lady, 39, 5'4", average build, hazy puppy-dog eyes, brown hair, looking for genuine, honest guy, non-smoker, friendship first. Box 896694

THE WONDER OF YOU

38yr old woman, slim, long hair, love rock music, concerts, bits, in need of attention, love and respect. Box 897114

MUST HAVE GSOH AND BE ABLE TO COOK!

Down-to-earth, kind and caring, separated, strong-willed Scottish mum, 39, looking for fun, tactile, cute and considerate male who likes noise and chaos. Box 897191

YOUNG-AT-HEART

Attractive 38yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curvy physique, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, fun male, for friendship/relationship. Box 901893

LET'S GET TOGETHER

Hi, I'm Paula, 38, 5'2", with a good nature, looking for fun and someone to go out and have a laugh with. Box 435244

LOOKING FOR THE SAME

Black female, 38, 5'8", have children, like life, very loving and caring. 5'5", custody built, good personality, seeking a gentle, considerate man. Box 431286

MAKE ME GIGGLE

Black female, 38 years old, 5'2", likes going out, seeking a sociable male, who likes having a laugh. Gillingham. Box 429656

THE WIT TO WOOL!

Kent female, 38, 5'7", dark eyes, GSOH, no ties, likes cosy nights in, socialising, country pubs, cinema, seeks lively, caring male, for friendship & more. Box 435619

YOU'LL SMILE IF YOU DIAL

Bubbly 40yr old female, enjoys beaches, pubs, clubs, WLTm a like-minded, caring male to share fun times with. Box 435102

SAMTIMES YOU NEED A MAN

Sammy, 40 (just), single Mum of 4, independent, over house, hard-working, seeking loving, happy-go-lucky (like me!), easygoing male for fun and maybe relationship. Box 435698

JOIN ME BABY

Fun-loving, vivacious woman, early 40s, enjoys dining out, walking, cinema, looking for a confident man with GSOH, n/s for friendship & maybe more. Box 958889

STRIKE ME!

42, 5'8", slim build, dark hair, blue eyes, GSOH, very active, likes club and cinema, clubs, seeking a male 40-55 for friendship and more! Box 436163

BRIGHTEN UP MY WORLD

Loving and loyal 40yr old female, GSOH, enjoys walking, countryside, cinema, theatre, pubs, restaurants, music, travel, seeks someone and loving male between 40-55 for friendship. Box 908972

STOP THE SHAKES!

Hello, 40yr old female, 5'8", blonde, nervous outgoing, love music, socialising, simple things in life, seeking a male to look after and settle down with. Box 436633

BACK TO NATURE

42yr old female, divorced, 5'2", blonde hair green eyes, curvy, love animals, nature, country walks, seeking a male to start a long term relationship! Box 428498

ARE YOU LONESOME TONIGHT?

Lady, bubbly and affectionate, attractive lady, 51, dark hair, enjoys nights in, love animals, seeking a like-minded gent for happiness. Box 435855

PUTTER IN YOUR HANDS!

Sporty female, 50, Hastings-based, 5'8", blonde/blue, enjoys golf, walking, socialising, eating, lively WLTm fun-loving, kind, sporty male, 48-60, 5'10", to share his life. Box 165367

BIG HEART

New to the area, I'm female, 50, with blonde hair/blue eyes, 5'8", Seeking nice, outgoing guy who likes meals out, travel, nights in, cinema. Box 437026

IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED...

Hello, I'm 35, 5'11", brown eyes, grey hair, a widow, been in a bad way recently so looking for my soulmate, enjoys walks, socialising and more. Box 436691

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ARE WE SOUL MATES?

33yr old bubbly lady, fit, like meals out, staying in, looking for a caring man to share life's ups and downs. Box 435768

LAST CHANCE?

Lively, understanding female, 51, large build, WLTm genuine, loving male, 46-58, for lasting, loving relationship. Dealham. Box 399271

DEAR?

Sue, 55yrs young, fit, cuddly, honest, easygoing, GSOH, enjoys reading, films and a glass of wine! seeking like-minded male, Deal area, for friendship, perhaps more! Box 896588

STARTING OVER

Black female, 40yrs old, 5'5", 5'5", green eyes, brown hair, medium build, GSOH, I like eating out, cinema, driving, music, holidays, seeking friendship, seek what develops. Box 897592

LIKES THE NICE THINGS IN LIFE

Divorced female, 50s, 5'4", own home, great job and friends, likes to keep fit, hobbies include shopping, cooking, dining out, theatre/cinema, holidays, seeking friendship and more. Box 434901

LIKE TO ENJOY LIFE

Happy-go-lucky female, 57, likes nice walks, pub/cubs, quite nights in, loves children and animals, seeking an honest, caring man. Box 435308

THE CAT THAT GETS THE CREAM

Hi I'm Jackie, 58, 5'8", blue eyes, fun-loving, down-to-earth and considerate, love horses, seeking male 58-65 who loves music and animals to be my soul-mate. Box 436328

MEN'S SPOTLIGHT

BUILT TO LAST

Honest male, 25, 5'8", blue eyes, brown hair, likes football, swimming, seeks cute looking female for friendship and more. Box 436935

BARNEL OF LAUGHS

I'm 30, from Ashford, happy-go-lucky, work hard, have a 2yr old daughter, seeking similar fun-loving lady for friendship, getting to know you. Box 434516

RECIPE FOR ROMANCE

Single male, 32, easy-going, 6'8", dark hair/blue eyes, black hair/brown eyes, works in London, own home/car and a motorbike! I'm a family guy and also enjoy going out/socialising. Box 436881

GET UP AND GO

Creative, male, 35, 6'8", slim, dark hair/eyes, loves music, travel, history, sports, cinema, the good life, discos, seeks lady to share life with. Kent. Box 417332

SOCIALISE SORT

Alan, 46, 6'8", brown hair, GSOH, likes going out, football, keeping fit, seeks sporty female for friendship and more. Box 435922

BRING ME HAPPINESS

Easy-going guy, genuine, 46, 5'8", slim, hard-working, own home, weekends, enjoys nights in/out, drives, seeks similar, socialising, walks, seeking someone to enjoy life with. Box 435383

IN YOUR EYES

Blond, blue-eyed male, 46, 5'8", enjoys socialising, cinema, live alone in Ashford, looking for a great lady for fun, friendship and more. Box 421654

SOAK UP LOVE

Good-looking, 47, VGSOH, medium build, varied interests, looking for friendship and love with honest, easy-going female with GSOH, kids not a problem. Box 889446

INTERESTED?

I'm John, 48, GSOH, love the cinema, loves reading, sports, the pub, TV, eating in, seeking a similar, committed lady 40-50 for steady, stable LTR. Box 436289

BEAUTY IS MORE THAN SKIN DEEP

Perfect, young-looking, 48, 6'8", reliable, considerate, love skiing, holidays, walks, conversation, gardens, DIY, WLTm lady, 37-47, slim/medium, to be loving companion and lover. Box 959035

QUALITY TIME

Interests: music, cinema, cosy nights in, looking for a woman to have fun with. I'm divorced, 39yrs old, and hoping for companionship. Box 436878

MAKE IT A LOVELY DAY

I'm a GSOH, fit, light green eyes, brown hair, looking for a fun, bubbly woman to share laugh, days out and much more. Box 436696

CAN'T BUY ME LOVE

I'm 62, 6'2", brown hair, blue eyes, enjoy golf, sports and travel, seeking fun, outgoing female for friendship and more. Maidstone. Box 436493

Women seeking women

PASSIONATE SCORPIO

40yr old female, 48, blue eyes, very feminine, loves music, animals, reading, writing, starts, very genuine, meals inviting, seeking boyish male who's loving and caring. Box 433132

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

Capricorn female, 48, 5'8", brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, caring, animal lover, into DIY, sports, reading, WLTm someone in Maidstone area. Box 434547

DANCING IN THE STREET

40yr old female, 42, 5'8", blonde hair, blue eyes, GSOH, caring, animal lover, into DIY, sports, reading, WLTm someone in Maidstone area. Box 434547

COOL, CALM & COLLECTED

Romantic Pisces, 39, enjoys finer things in life, seeking genuine professional, slim lady. Get in touch! Box 959581

THE SPECIAL ONE?

41yr old genuine and understanding male, 5'8", short cropped hair, enjoy sports, the pub, looking for lady, medium/large, for friendship, possibly more. Box 433335

LET'S GET PHYSICAL

Blond, blue-eyed male, 42, slim, likes running, cycling, cinema, travel, music, martial arts, eating in, seeking an active lady with similar interests. Box 436292

HERE'S TO LOOKING FORWARD!

Hello you, if you're fed up with looking back at the past and wondering 'what if?' I'm 41 and I'm your man! Box 909888

BIG DEAL IN DEAL

Warm, tactile male, 42, 6'8", likes socialising, pub/cubs, cosy nights in, seeks like minded female, for friendship, leading to more. Box 389697

SHINE TOGETHER

Slender male, 42, 5'11", genuine, reliable, NS, likes all the usual things in life, WLTm genuine, down-to-earth lady, 26-40 for romance. Gillingham area. Box 425419

PARTY TILL DAWN!

Attention ladies! Nice looking, cheeky, fun-loving guy, 42, seeks an attractive, fun loving female for loads of fun & laughs. East Kent. Box 824810

yourashfordblogger

Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in the district of Ashford...

Take mobiles off kids and get a sense of perspective

THE gas 'terror' attack at Christ Church School convinced me of one thing.

It isn't that schools are incompetent organisations that need to be surrounded with barbed wire fences and metal detectors at the entrances to keep the children in and the young hooligans out (or is it the other way round?).

It isn't even the fact dangerous weapons seem far too easy for children to get hold of. No, the main thing it convinced me of is that mobile phones are the scourge of modern life.

The chaos that was unleashed in the school by whoever let off the pepper spray had more to do with hysteria than with the act itself.

The problem is that everyone is in touch with everyone else in an instant. Even before anybody really knows what is going on, rumours spread faster than reason can keep up with.

Many of the kids grasped their mobile phones and were immediately telling their parents that something akin to 9/11 was going on at the school. No wonder panicked parents

rushed to see if their kids were alright. But is it really sensible to trust the judgement of a 13-year-old and expect them to give a realistic appraisal of what was going on? Especially when surrounded by their excited friends.

Let's be honest, what happened that afternoon was not much more than overblown stink bomb going off. Admittedly a very unpleasant and no doubt frightening one for those children directly involved, but still not much more than that.

Think how things have changed. Years ago, parents were quite content to send their children to school perfectly prepared to let teachers inflict grievous bodily harm on a child, with a cane or a slipper; as long as it kept the little so and so in check.

Nowadays, if a kid stands too close to a radiator it can result in a million pound legal action. We need a sense of perspective.

Parents should be listening to their children less not more. I had to sit on the top deck of the bus at home time recently. They really do not have anything (and I mean anything) interest-

ing to say. That's if they can talk coherently at all, with all the adopted American rap jargon they spew out. It's OK if you actually grow up on the streets of Brooklyn or Compton, but to be honest from a freckle-faced kid from Wye it's a bit hard to take.

Children and phones are a hazardous combination. Look at the happy slapping phenomenon. Something that is genuinely dangerous. Only the mind of a 14-year-old boy with testosterone coming out of his ears could come up with such a moronic idea and not realise the dangers.

My advice is to take that phone off your kids' hands and do something useful with it like... well you can't do anything else with the things. Your kids will be OK. They will soon be happy like the rest of us when we forget to charge the battery up or run out of credit that we can go about our lives in an all too short moment of sweet privacy.

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If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the editor, **Chris Britcher**, on 01303 817171 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Ashford blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor.

And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to

www.yourashford.co.uk

Write to The Editor, YourAshford, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

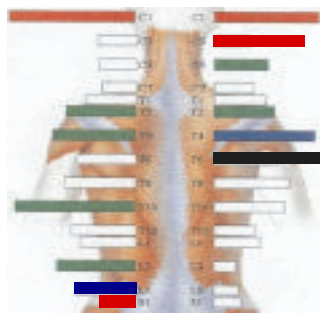
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The kit is available in two sizes (chest 32/34-inch and 34/36-inch), and



is pre-numbered and machine washable. We also have a CIS Kit bag full of training equipment for the runner up.

So, if you want your team to be dress for success all you need to do is tell us:

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Send your answer on a postcard along with your e-mail address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to CIS COMP, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR.

For terms and conditions see www.kentnews.co.uk or call 01303 817073. If you do not wish to receive any literature please write on your entry. Don't forget to include the name of your club and the size of kit you require.

• Co-operative Insurance (CIS) forms part of Co-operative Financial Services (CFS), a group that provides a range of banking, insurance, savings and pension products. CFS was formed in 2002 to bring together CIS, The Co-operative Bank and smile, the internet bank.

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TALK TIME

ELLEN MARTIN

The assistant manager of health food store Holland & Barrett in the High Street, Ellen Martin, discusses her job and the town



How is business?

We are very busy just after Christmas because people are on a bit of a health drive. We sell health foods and alternative medicines. I have worked with the company for 15 years. It's rewarding working here because customers often come back and say something that you have given them has helped with an ailment they have.

Since I have worked here there has been an increased demand in these kinds of products. When we started we were in a little corner shop near the church yard. Now we are in a bigger shop and it has got busier and busier.

What do you think of the town?

I think in Ashford we don't have enough alternative shops around; we seem to have lost some of those. I would like to see more of those types of shop back.

How long have you lived in Ashford?

I was born on a farm just outside Ashford. I have lived in and around the area all my life.

What do you do in your spare time?

I am a Women's Institute president and have been on the committee for 21 years. I knit and sew when time allows me.

I live on a farm and I help my son when I can. We have Highland cattle and sheep. I like the country life. I was brought up on a farm and lived on one until I married a railway man. I came to Ashford for twenty odd years but now we are back in the country again.

Farming is hit and miss all the time. My son farms but he has to have another job to keep it going. He works as a lorry driver during the week. So he has to work evenings and weekends. It makes it a very long day.

YOUR LETTERS



We can't blame schools for the kids

I cannot agree more with Damian Green's comments on your story last week (MP: School drama is lesson to us all).

As is demonstrated week after week, teenagers run riot due to a failure of suitable discipline from home.

Schools cannot possibly be blamed for what their children carry in their schoolbags. They are there to teach and educate – not subject every student to a full body search every time they enter the building.

Will the lessons be learned? I hope so – but I seriously doubt it.

K Townsend
Via email

Bring back corporal punishment

Isn't the role of the school to ensure its children are not carrying potentially dangerous weapons?

Is it not the role of the school to assume responsibility for our children while in their care?

Is it not about time schools and MPs stop blaming the parents and take their responsibilities



COMMENT ONLINE TOO

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more seriously?

The reintroduction of corporal punishment would certainly go a long way towards restoring a suitable balance.

Name & address supplied

Finally more parking spaces at hospital

Thank goodness the William

Harvey is finally going to have more parking spaces.

My husband and I have frequently nearly missed our appointments due to difficulty finding a car parking space and we both keep our fingers crossed that struggle will no longer be repeated.

However, my heart bleeds for the poor woman whose mother died while she couldn't park. Isn't it crazy?

Mr & Mrs Tweedle
Willesborough

Wii are realising enormity of problem

Why should any school consider bringing video games machines into the classroom? (Wii'll help you to beat obesity after school, Yourashford).

Surely if pupils are so lazy the only way they can exercise is by playing a video game and swinging a joystick about, we really are fighting a losing battle against childhood obesity.

Liam Jones
Ashford

Ten things you can do to control cancer

With new scientific studies being published all the time, it's easy to get confused about how lifestyles can affect our risk of cancer.

This is why World Cancer Research Fund published a report last November that looked at all the evidence available before making ten recommendations.

These are available on our website at www.wcrf-uk.org and we have now grouped these recommendations into three simple guidelines that sum up how we can reduce our cancer risk.

Lisa Cooney, head of education for the World Cancer Research Fund, by email

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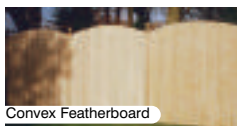
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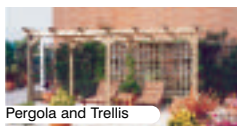


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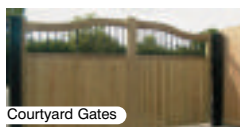


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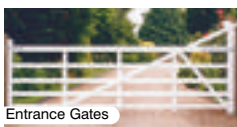


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Unique Brand of comedy is still joy to see

TV star Jo rolls in for sure fire sell-out

ONE of the country's leading comedienne's will be paying a welcome visit to Kent this spring.

During the last two decades, Jo Brand has become a successful stand-up, author and broadcaster, as well as an immensely popular TV personality. Tickets are expected to sell out fast, so book yours now to avoid missing this comedic treat.

Brand, 50, was born in Hastings and educated at Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School, before embarking on a career in the caring profession. Her mother was a social worker and Brand famously worked as a psychiatric nurse before discovering her talent for making people laugh.

An agent persuaded her to try her luck on the alternative comedy circuit, where she earned a cult following with the pseudonym The Sea Monster. Her droll, almost bored style of delivery combined with perceptive and cutting one-liners were a huge hit in the clubs, which led to her becoming a resident panellist on the 1993 BBC show The Brain Drain.

She then landed her own Channel 4 series, Jo Brand Through The Cakehole, which established her in the mainstream as one of the country's favourite female comics.

During the 80s and 90s, her distinctive image - big hair, dark clothes and Doc Marten boots - went hand in hand with her heavily feminist material. Pet topics included sexism and prejudice against fat people, but the perceptive quality of her jokes made her just as popular with men and thin people.

Since becoming a wife and mother to two daughters, Brand's humour has evolved and now takes in marriage, family life and the challenges of getting older. She has also branched out from stand-up, becoming a popular semi-regular panellist on the intelligent panel game QI and fulfilling an ambition by appearing on Countdown in the Dictionary Corner.

With her dry and razor-sharp wit, she often leaves younger male comedians speechless on programmes such as Never Mind The Buzzcocks and Have I Got News For You.

Her hilarious appearances on



GENIUS: Jo Brand has been making us laugh with her cutting one-liners for over 20 years

Comic Relief Does Fame Academy and Comic Relief Does The Apprentice won even more fans of all ages. She even endured being made over by Trinny and Susannah in a special episode of What Not To Wear four years ago, the old black leggings and Doc Martens having been ditched in favour of more feminine clothes.

A poll by Channel 4 named her the

22nd best stand-up ever and the second highest ranking woman in the chart, beaten only by Victoria Wood.

The show starts at 8pm and tickets cost £15. Call 01622 758611 or see www.hazlitttheatre.co.uk.

JO BRAND

Monday, April 21

Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone



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with
JANE CONNOLLY
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HAMLET

Tuesday to Saturday,
February 26 to March 1
Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury

THE heartbreaking tragedy of Hamlet will be explored in a fascinating new production by the Northern Ballet Theatre.

Set to a specially commissioned score by British composer Philip Feeney, the story has been moved from 16th century Denmark to occupied Paris in the early

1940s. When a young man returns from the front to find his father dead, his mother married to his uncle and his city in the grip of the enemy, his world descends into chaos.

As the boundaries between truth and deception, sanity and insanity, begin to blur, Hamlet struggles to make sense of his new life. Co-director David Nixon said: "It's a story that people immediately identify with and there is much about it

that has resonance in our darker corners."

Although it will not feature the Bard's famous dialogue, the production has been lovingly crafted over two years and aims to express his turmoil and emotion through dance.

Performances start at 7.30pm daily with 2pm matinees on Thursday and Saturday. Tickets are priced from £13 to £29. Call the box office on 01227 787787 or see www.marlowetheatre.com.

ABBA - THE STORY

Friday, March 7
Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone

DUST off your platform shoes and dig out the flares for an evening of pure nostalgia and great music.

Voulez Vous has been performing outstanding ABBA productions for 15 years, building up a huge following and bringing the unforgettable sound of the 1970s super group back to the fans. The new show, ABBA - The Story, features a non-stop celebration of the band's greatest hits combined with the authentic look of the era.

Brilliantly performed with quality vocals, personality and humour, the production includes multi-screen projection and voice-over narration telling the story of ABBA's rise and fall.



The Swedish group achieved its big break when it won the 1974 Eurovision Song Contest with Waterloo, which went on to become their first UK number one single. Over the next decade

they became an international sensation, recording hit songs that remain favourites today.

The performance starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £16/£15. To book call the box office on 0844 847 1776.

KEITH JAMES

Monday, February 25
Zebra Bar, Maidstone

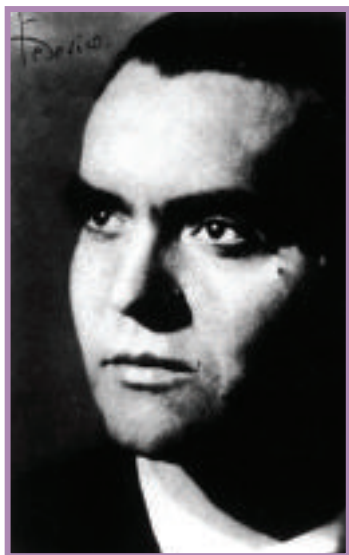
THE work of Spanish poet Federico Garcia Lorca (pictured) has been set to music in a groundbreaking project by Keith James.

His critically acclaimed album, Lorca, is an ambitious celebration of one of the 20th century's greatest writers. The tour gives audiences a chance to experience the passionate, haunting and evocative poetry set to James' beautiful and contemporary compositions.

The Kent singer/songwriter discovered Lorca's work purely by accident. After visiting a bookshop to order volumes by Chilean poet Naruda, he came out with one of Lorca's books and the love affair began.

James was hooked and he began to research the poet, who was murdered during the Spanish Civil War, before deciding to set his emotive words to music. He will be performing a selection of tracks from the album, as well as the songs of artists such as Nick Drake and Joni Mitchell. A film about the life and death of Lorca will also be shown.

The gig starts at 8pm and tickets cost £10 in advance or £12 on the door. To book call 01622 744481.



ASHFORD LEISURE

Murder mystery takes you back to the 1930s

DON your deerstalkers for an evening of murder and intrigue at The Chequers Inn in High Halden tomorrow night.

All That Glitters is a 1930s-themed murder mystery set at the home of the Wilmington-Smythes, who are hosting a sophisticated dinner party. Things start to get out of hand when a game of murder becomes a bit too realistic.

Arrive at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. There will be a prize for the best costume. Tickets cost £21 including dinner. For details call 01233 850218.

Be bowled over when you join in pirate fun

PIRATES of all ages are invited to join a theme party night at AMF Bowling in Ashford on Friday.

Seadogs will enjoy unlimited bowling from 8.30pm to 1am, plus a buffet and a party bag per lane. There will even be a chance to win some treasure.

Tickets cost £15 for adults and £12.50 for children. For details and to book, call 0844 826 3010. Find out more at www.amfbowling.co.uk.

Angelic voices combine for free music festival

THE Birmingham Citadel Songsters of the Salvation Army will perform at a music festival in Ashford this weekend.

Also featuring the BBC Choir Boy of the Year, Joel Whitewood from Ashford, and a Canterbury Cathedral chorister, it promises to be an evening of truly outstanding music.

The concert will be held at Ashford Baptist Church in Station Road, starting at 6pm on Saturday.

Admission is free. For more details call 01233 643480/645216 or see www.ashfordchristiancentre.org.uk.

Stay Up All Night under the covers at the Albert

ROCK classics, both old and new, will be played live in Ashford this weekend.

Up All Night is a band playing cover versions of hits by greats such as the Rolling Stones, The Buzzcocks and The Undertones, as well as contemporary acts such as Green Day and Arctic Monkeys.

The band will be performing at the Prince Albert in New Street, Ashford, on Saturday. For details call 01233 637339.

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ASHFORD SHOPPING

Get ready for shopping centre's grand opening

COUNTY Square will be officially reopened with a fun day on Wednesday, April 26 – a month later than planned.

Bad weather has delayed work on the extension to the popular shopping destination, and centre chiefs say they will pull out all the stops to make the official unveiling a day to remember.

Shop 'til you drop and earn holiday vouchers

SHOPPERS heading into the Designer Outlet will pick up £100 of holiday vouchers for every £100 they spend in a day at the centre during this half-term week.

Open to all shoppers aged 18 or over, there is no limit on the amount of vouchers which can be earned. Simply prove the spend with till receipts at the information desk to claim your voucher.

Tanya Morris, centre manager at Ashford Designer Outlet, said: "This is the perfect opportunity to do some pre-holiday shopping as it will actually earn you money off your next holiday."

Take a byte out of the cheap computer market

COMPUTER giant Dell has started rolling out its range of PCs and laptops in supermarket chain Tesco, as well as a host of other high street stores.

The firm has traditionally only sold its machines via mail order, but has now branched out doing deals with the likes of PC World and Currys.

Different models are being rolled out in various stores, so check with your local outlet. Tesco's range can be also found online at www.tesco.com, or try www.pcworld.co.uk.

Safety comes first when you're out on the piste

SKIERS heading for their winter break on the slopes should choose safety over fashion when choosing sunglasses.

According to The College of Optometrists, UV rays can be up to eight times more powerful on the pistes. But many fashion-conscious Brits are risking long-term eye damage by not choosing shades that block out UV-A and UV-B rays.

Top tips include looking out for the British Standard mark BS EN 1836:2005, making sure glasses fit properly and wearing goggles where possible. See www.college-optometrists.org.

New mattress? Sleep on it before you decide

SHOPPERS will no longer lose sleep over buying a mattress, thanks to Ikea's new policy.

A mattress could feel great in the store but prove to be uncomfortable after a few hours rest. The 90 Day Love It or Exchange It policy means customers can make their purchase and sleep on it, before deciding whether to keep it or not.

Guidelines suggest mattresses should be kept for no more than eight years, so it could be time to make a change.

Find out more at www.ikea.com.

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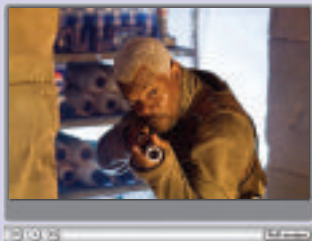
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THERE WILL BE BLOOD (15)



When Daniel Plainview gets a mysterious tip-off that there's a little town where an ocean of oil is oozing out of the ground, he heads there with his son HW to take his chances in Little Boston. The pair make their strike, but as the oil well raises their fortunes, conflicts escalate and every human value is threatened.

ALL THE BOYS LOVE MANDY LANE (18)



Mandy Lane is an object of adolescent lust for all her school. A shy teen, she's forced to entertain irritating advances while on a weekend excursion with her classmates. She thinks these pathetic come-ons will be the worst of it, but as her mates are killed off one by one, it appears an admirer is harbouring ulterior motives.

It's not cuckoo to write a list

BY ELLIE GENOWER

Having turned 70 last year, Jack Nicholson may well have mortality on his mind already.

If not, his latest movie *The Bucket List* was bound to do the job – it follows two seriously ill men who make a list of things to do before they 'kick the bucket'.

"I think fear of death and fear of the unknown motivates people not to live in the now," says Jack, sunglasses, as usual, fixed in place.

"I always mistrusted someone who said they didn't want to live forever. I changed my mind when I thought to myself, the real question is not whether you want to live forever, but do you want to live forever at the expense of your children? Because if suddenly people stopped dying, we'd have a real ecological problem on our hands."

These days, Jack doesn't do a lot of movies, averaging about one a year since 2000.

Having reached pensionable age with three Oscars to his name, there's not much left for the star to prove – and he knows it. But *The Bucket List* offered him the chance to work with Morgan Freeman, an actor he has long admired.

"We've known one another a long time," admits Jack. "Morgan and I very much wanted to work together. Sometimes things are great and filming this was one of those times. We both had a lot of awareness of one another. It was a reaffirmation."

The Bucket List also offered Jack the chance to work with director Rob Reiner again, who was at the helm during Jack's legendary performance as Marine Colonel Nathan Jessop in *A Few Good Men*, alongside Tom Cruise.

After Jack's character, millionaire Edward Cole, meets Morgan's, mechanic Carter Chambers, in hospital, the pair become unlik-

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ly friends and opt to use Edward's cash to make their 'bucket list'.

This sees them jet round the world on an exhaustive trip seeing landmarks like the pyramids in Egypt and the Great Wall of China, and indulging in skydiving, car racing and getting a tattoo, all with the aid of Jack's long suffering assistant Thomas (Sean Hayes).

But of course, the trip isn't just about two men having the time of their lives. They also have to deal with long-forgotten personal issues.

Says Jack: "What I like about the tone of this movie, and my character, is, it's not sentimental, but it has sentiment."

Mention Jack's own personal bucket list, and his thoughts turn to actors he'd like to work with.

"We've all got a bucket list," he admits. "I can't work with Marilyn Monroe, so she's off the list. But there are a lot of people. I was thinking about it last night because people are



STILL HERE: Jack Nicholson hasn't kicked the bucket yet

always asking me which young actors I like.

"I'm categorically against making up lists like that because somebody's always annoyed, so I never answer. But I thought, 'No, I'm going to do this different. I'm going to write out a long list of people, be it Nick Cage or Joaquin Phoenix'.

"Incidentally, it's a pretty long list."

So, after an acting career which has spanned several decades and given him more adulation, awards and acclaim than most actors can only dream of, does Jack have any regrets?

"I think," he says, "that it's always the things you don't do in life that you regret most, not the things you do."



THE BUCKET LIST
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A PERSONAL solution to health and weight loss goals is offered by Think Slim 'n' Trim with Herbalife coach Nevil Kapadia reaching out to clients in many different countries.

He explains: "Herbalife is a major way to maximise nutrition and potential and customers can go online to see what products are available to ensure their body is at its very best.

"Often the most available foods are high in fat, sugar and salt and lacking in essential nutrients.

"This can lead to the body being denied essential vitamins and minerals."

The UK, Finland, Sweden, New Zealand and the USA all boast customers for Nevil's health-boosting range.

One of the most popular products he offers is Formula 1 - a shake-style drink developed 27 years ago.

A meal in itself in one glass, it is the ideal start to any day as it is packed with vitamins and minerals, soya protein, carbohydrates and healthy fibre - but with less than 220 calories in each serving.

Nevil, who would love to work with soccer star David Beckham and his LA Galaxy team mates, said he has received very positive feedback.



SMALLER: Yvonne is proud of how much success she's had with Think Slim 'n' Trim

"It really is life changing," he said. "It's unbelievable how you have more time in the day when you feel great about yourself.

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How to look good and feel great

■ The Wells Clinic

THE Wells Clinic in Ashford has been running for 17 years, helping people achieve their full potential in terms of their looks.

"We are about making people feel good about themselves - making people happier," said Helen Huggins.

She explains that there is far more to looking and feeling good than simply how you look in one area: "Our business is about our clients feeling confident and giving themselves more assurance."

With that comes a range of exciting new ideas and procedures that completely bypass any need for surgery - one of the biggest concerns for many people. The Wells Clinic ensures

that it can offer the very latest advances in non-invasive cosmetic surgery.

Helen added: "Wrinkle fillers and Botox injections can take years off your face. You can become more confident, look younger and achieve a more positive outlook."

A lot of the business is word of mouth, and celebrity clients have also used the expertise of staff at Wells - but the centre is discreet and won't be naming names.

A simple consultation can take you through all the procedures available and skilled staff can advise on the best procedures based on individual needs.

For more details about the clinic see the advert on this page.



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No24

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YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

A SOURCE of income could come to an end and it could put you in a bit of a panic. Instead of concentrating on your lack of material resources, count your blessings. Staying focused on the good things in your life. This sounds simplistic, but it's really true.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

ALL things must come to an end and this week you should be saying farewell to a group, club or organisation that's been a great help to you in the past. Those who know and love you best will be encouraging and supportive, but there will be some sour grapes from certain people.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

IT may be a surprise to find you can't depend on someone close. You need to stand on your own two feet. The important thing is to claim your personal power. Some people may feel threatened by your decision, but if they care for your well-being your relationship will survive.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

YOU could hear news of an impending birth. Even though everybody else is wild with excitement, you're a little concerned. It's sobering to realise that your carefree days are coming to a and only right to mourn this loss of independence. You're entering a new season of life.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

YOU'RE in the driver's seat where relationships are concerned. The time has come for you to take the lead and deal decisively with those issues that are preying on your mind and undermining your happiness. There are tough decisions ahead so keep your eye on your goal.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

YOUR situation may force you to think about making a move. It's up to you to take the initiative and start putting your own plans and ideas into practice. This is a time of great opportunities especially if you want to rid yourself of anyone or anything that's holding you back.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

YOU won't be able to hide your feelings so don't even try. If someone has betrayed you, face up to it and move on. There's good news on the career front that could be bringing in extra cash very soon and a welcome development concerning someone younger.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

AN end to a difficult family matter has finally arrived. You've got to face the truth of this situation. Admitting mistakes is never easy, but it's essential to leading a happier, healthier life. Be sure to create a network of social support so you won't feel so vulnerable.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

IT may be time to put an end to a dangerous sport or obsessive hobby. If you won't do it for yourself, do it for your loved ones. You may be surprised to discover how liberated you feel as a result. You'll enjoy working behind the scenes on a community plan more than taking the lead.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

INSTEAD of letting your feelings get the better of you, make plans for your next move. Distancing yourself from a teacher, expert, or guru will be painful, but cleansing. It's not healthy to attach too much importance to one person or philosophy, anyway.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

A HEALTH matter could come to your attention, forcing you to cut back on work. If you keep going at the same break-neck pace the stresses and strains will start to tell. Some unexpected opposition or difficulty could come out of the woodwork, forcing you to leave a position you really enjoy.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

YOU may have been travelling a lot over the past few months. If this prospect isn't pleasing to you, do something about it. Inviting friends over for dinner and drinks can be a good way to ease back into the domestic realm. You can still have fun, even if you are staying in one place.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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8	2				4		3	
		3	6	7	2			9
5			2	8				
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MEDIUM

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HARD

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CRYPTIC CLUES

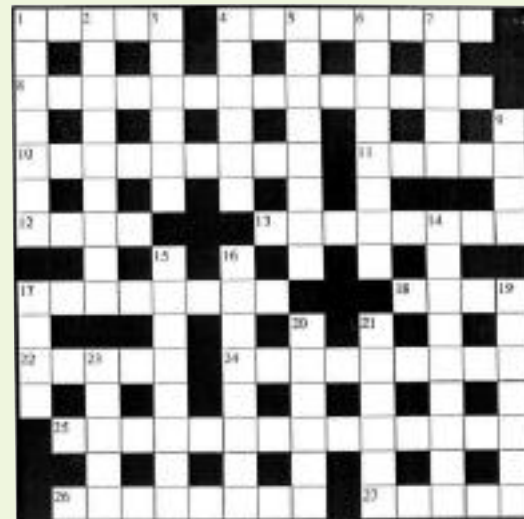
ACROSS

- Having scoffed, Jack found one on the bottom of the lake (5)
- Master's joint title (8)
- Angry testing? (5-9)
- German apt to become star (9)
- Push the boat (5)
- We hear side will be prolific (4)
- Female with churchman, trusty supporter (8)
- Book her Jamie misbehaving (8)...
- ...early outstanding book (4)
- Plant go on stage in Channel Islands (5)
- Undertaken by two parties or 49 in Alberta possibly (9)
- Old Post Office (6,8)
- Quieter part of a car? (8)
- Medico behind with payment (5)

DOWN

- Sailor with copper to bring up the money (7)
- Tanned nude said to be grizzly perhaps! (5,4)
- Dreary lads I'm shocking (6)
- Not necessary to have such an extravagance? (6)
- Don't forget about representative (8)
- Novelist and composer in Cheshire (8)
- It's found at the heart of sinners (5)
- Lady in London or man in Paris (4)
- Norma made new notes (9)
- Movie Ron created about meat and vegetable eater (8)
- Extremely cruel restrictions pronounced icy (8)
- Northerner Joseph, half-back (4)
- Sun air and water? (7)
- Priest, about nine, had right remedy (6)
- Ate into sketch Edward produced (6)
- Fur on one animal (5)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- Fed up (5)
- Perplex (8)
- Immortality (14)
- Ratified (9)
- Valse (anag.) (5)
- Unwilling (4)
- Removed lice (8)
- Close to the sea (8)
- Sea-fog (4)
- Scope (5)
- Redirect a letter (9)
- Attracting publicity (2,3,9)
- Oust (8)
- Elegy (5)

DOWN

- Plague (7)
- Controller (9)
- Dundee (anag.) (6)
- Chide (6)
- Took back (8)
- Fielder (cricket) (4-4)
- Artist's stand (5)
- Chief person (4)
- Vulture eg (9)
- Swindle (6-2)
- Brolly (8)
- Repast (4)
- Supporter's badge (7)
- Rodent (6)
- Muddled (6)
- African language (5)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

EASY

6	1	5	3	8	4	9	2	7
7	4	8	9	5	2	6	3	1
2	9	3	6	7	1	5	8	4
5	2	7	1	4	8	9	3	6
8	6	9	5	3	7	1	4	2
4	3	1	2	9	8	7	6	5
1	5	4	8	2	9	3	7	6
9	7	6	4	1	3	2	5	8
3	8	2	7	6	5	4	1	9

MEDIUM

7	1	8	6	2	4	5	3	9
6	4	3	9	5	1	8	7	2
2	5	9	7	8	3	1	6	4
4	7	6	2	3	5	9	8	1
1	9	2	8	6	7	4	5	3
8	3	5	1	4	9	7	2	6
3	6	4	5	1	8	2	9	7
9	8	1	3	7	2	6	4	5
5	2	7	4	9	6	3	1	8

HARD

4	8	5	8	9	2	3	7	1
1	7	9	4	8	3	6	5	2
8	2	3	7	5	1	8	9	4
2	9	8	1	4	8	5	3	7
7	1	6	2	3	5	9	4	8
5	3	4	9	7	8	2	1	6
8	4	1	6	2	9	7	3	5
9	6	2	3	1	7	4	8	5
3	5	7	8	6	4	1	2	9

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE No 22: 1) Lamp on red lamp post is missing 2) Shelter pillar is gone 3) Square between tracks is missing 4) First window on train has gone 5) Dark object on train roof is missing

CRYPTIC SOLUTIONS No23

ACROSS: 1 Decamp 4 Marrow 10 Glissando 11 Alter 12 Suffice 13 Tadpole 14 Equestrianism 16 Double-dealing 21 Anaemia 22 Sextant 24 Pick 25 Loincloth 26 Wining 27 Platan.

DOWN: 1 Digest 2 Chief 3 Missive 5 Abaddon 6 Rat-poison 7 Warner 8 Under the table 9 Container ship 15 Quotation 17 Bumpkin 18 Lexical 19 Pawpaw 20 Itchen 23 About.

ACROSS: 1 Bored 4 Bewilder 8 Degenerate

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Explore a lakeside retreat

BY HANNAH STEPHENSON

Driving along the precarious winding roads and through tunnels cut into the jagged mountains reminded me of a scene from *The Italian Job*.

But it wasn't a Mini we were travelling in, the location wasn't Turin and Michael Caine was nowhere to be seen. In fact, we were doing a circuit of Lake Garda, Italy's largest lake, which lies in the foothills of the Dolomites in the north of the country.

Lake Garda, peppered with a mixture of elaborate hotels, pebble beaches and beautiful towns against a stunning mountainous backdrop, has plenty on offer for the discerning traveller.

Thankfully, unlike other popular resorts, architects haven't dug into the spectacular hillside to create holiday apartments or commercial villages. The scenery varies enormously, from the craggy mountains of the north, to the rich vineyards of the middle reaches and the gentle plains which back the southern shores.

We were staying at Europa Silvea, a pretty campsite near Salo, on the south west of the lake, shaded by olive trees.

Our drive north took us past Salo through tree-lined roads alongside picturesque towns including Gardone Riviera and Gargnano and, almost at the tip of the lake, to the more commercial town of Limone, where you can hire



WHAT A VIEW: As the Cote D'Azur of Italy, Lake Garda isn't a cheap holiday, but it is beautiful

pedalos, go for a swim or even catch a car ferry across the lake to Malcesine, also known as the Riviera of Olives, which was loved by many celebrated writers and artists, most notably Goethe.

Many of the campsites around Lake Garda (and there are a lot of them) are situated on the hillside and enjoy stunning views of the lake. We were able to access the lake from our campsite for a swim and to just watch the world go by.

Lake Garda, which lies around half way between Venice and Milan, was formed by glaciers at the end of the last ice age and is divided between the regions of Lombardy, Trentino and the Veneto.

It may have an alpine setting, but the temperature is like the Mediterranean as the lake acts as a gigantic solar panel, with a ring of mountains retaining the heat.

It's 98 miles around the lake, so you can drive around it in a day, although we were keen to explore the many gorgeous villages and towns on its banks. To the north nearer the mountains it is windier and narrower, just two miles across at its narrowest point, and that's where much of the sailing and windsurfing takes place.

Further south there's still a plethora of water-based activities, from water skiing and jet skiing to scuba diving and fishing.

If you are going to drive, I would recommend hiring a small car rather than a big people carrier because parking can be tricky close to the lake in the height of season.

The best mode of travel for me, however, was the ferry. You can get to major towns across the lake this way, without the hassle of traffic or parking, although it is quite pricey – around 60 Euros (£42) for a half-hour trip for a family of four.

I have to say that eating out in Lake Garda is not cheap for families unless you live on shared pizzas. It is the Cote D'Azur of Italy, so expect to pay accordingly.

We found the Italians extremely child-friendly, the water cleaner than a lot of the Mediterranean and the ambience stylish but relaxed.

All in all, the perfect Italian job.

FACT FILE: ITALY

Time difference	UK +1 hour
Currency	Euro approx 1.34 to £1
Capital	Rome
Population	59.3 million
Language	Italian
Religion	Roman Catholic
Climate	Mediterranean

Holiday details

Hannah Stephenson travelled to Lake Garda courtesy of Keycamp. Twelve nights at Europa Silvea in May 2008 starts from £297 for two adults and up to five children staying in a Classic Midi mobile home, accommodation only. Seven nights in August costs from £621.

Fly drive packages, rail travel or ferry crossings and overnight stops are available at a supplement. Visit www.keycamp.co.uk or call 0844 406 0319 to make your booking or request a brochure.

The hire car was courtesy of Hertz. To make a reservation, log onto www.hertz.co.uk or call 08708 448844.



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PROPERTY NEWS

Regret over rise in repossession cases

FOLLOWING the release of the latest repossession figures by the Council of Mortgage Lenders, the National Association of Estate Agents has expressed "regret" over the reported rise.

But the group said a sense of perspective on the market is necessary.

Peter Bolton King, chief executive at the NAEA, said: "We always regret hearing news about repossession rises.

"Difficult economic conditions have taken their toll on some homeowners recently and this is certainly unfortunate. It is vital that people looking at the wider market do not lose their sense of perspective, however.

"The 2007 repossession figures are still massively down on those seen in the early 90s, when nearly 80,000 were recorded in one year compared with 27,100 last year."

Agencies struggle to keep their staff

DESPITE a very healthy market, many letting companies say they are finding it increasingly difficult to find and hang on to good quality staff.

Although the basic earning potential remains good, letting companies are finding the market a tougher place than before and research shows that many employees are choosing to either leave the industry altogether or sit tight.

According to the business, many letting companies have realised that an important element of their reputation and brand image is how their staff deal with members of the public.

ID theft threat to county's landlords

LANDLORDS are being warned against the threat of identity theft by unscrupulous tenants.

According to a report, sales and letting agents are being warned to be on their guard for tenants with fake references who then assume the landlord's identity, apply for a mortgage and run off with the cash.

Rob Tancred, director of estate agency Capital Bromley, said: "If you do not have a mortgage on your property it is easy for a conman to obtain the title deeds and take one out in your name."



CONFUSION: Experts warn that a lack of knowledge of the changing Bank of England interest rates could have a big impact on the size of your mortgage repayments

Homeowners living on borrowed time

RESEARCH by The Homebuyer and Property Investor Show has revealed some homeowners are ignorant about basic financial issues, particularly in relation to mortgages.

Although rising interest rates have a significant impact on individual wealth, only one third of the respondents questioned knew what the Bank of England base rate was last month. It currently stands at 5.25 per cent.

Over 50 per cent of people believed the rate was under 5.5 per cent. These findings were confounded by the fact that 59 per cent did not

■ BY NICK AMES

know what the current interest rate was on their mortgage.

Such ignorance is worrying news for homeowners, many of whom could face a payment shock when their fixed rate mortgages come to an end soon.

The survey also showed an alarmingly low number of homeowners understand the mortgage options available, with only 34 per cent of respondents knowing that the tracker mortgage tracks the Bank of England's base rate.

Nick Clark, managing director of Homebuyer Events, said: "The Bank of England interest rate plays a crucial part in

determining homeowners' personal wealth. With borrowers not keeping their eye on the ball they could find they are paying way above the odds on their current mortgage.

"It is concerning that homeowners seem not to be on top of basic personal financial issues. Buying a house and signing up to a mortgage is possibly the largest financial commitment we make in our lives and yet the sheer number of people who do not understand the basic terms and processes is very worrying.

"However, help is at hand as there are a large number of highly trained financial advisors who can help explain the basic details as well as the more complex issues and keep borrowers abreast of any relevant changes and save them money in the long run."

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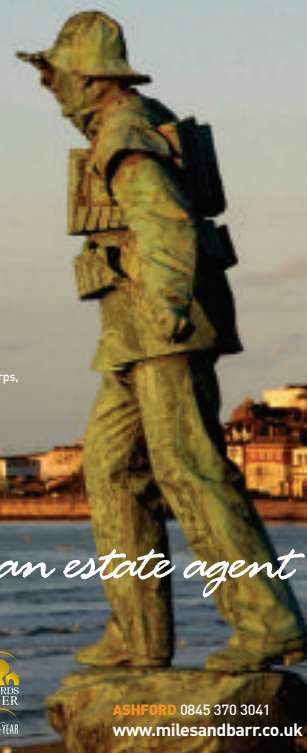


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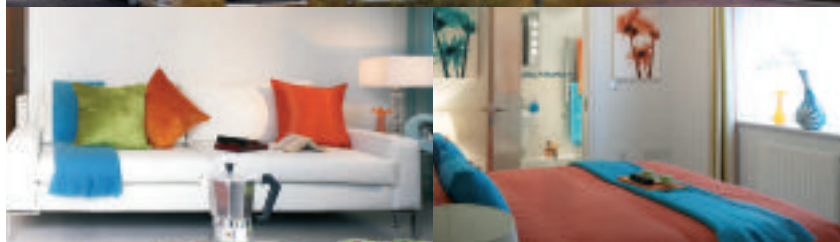


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MOTORS NEWS



Winner's keys to Punto

MEDWAY Fiat has presented a trendy special edition Grande Punto to a competition winner from Sittingbourne.

Mr Trevor Minnican is pictured (left) with wife Amanda receiving the keys from dealership sales manager Jason Golding after a competition staged by Fiat and electronics retailer Dixons.

The Minnicans' Punto featured a special package of extras including 15-inch alloys, spoiler, side skirts, sports stripes and 'Blue and Me' Bluetooth system.

Blue and Me is a collaboration between Fiat Auto and Microsoft and was the keynote of the competition.



Citroën cracks the Code

FOLLOWING success with the well-appointed yet affordable three-door C2 Code (£10,695) supermini special edition, Citroën has 'Coded' the C1 city car and C3 Pluriel convertible.

'Code' treatment can be deciphered as taking the model line's top trim level and adding leather upholstery, sporty alloys, chrome interior details and black livery, yet prices start from under £8,000 for the frugal three-door C1 Code – the standard equivalent costs £7,585. The Code package for the quirky Pluriel is even better value (£12,895) – below list price for the cheapest standard Pluriel.



Luxury Freelander's arrival only days away

LAND Rover has completed its award-winning Freelander 2 line-up with a new luxury flagship.

The Freelander 2 HST arrives in March, priced from £31,990. It looks the part with a Sports Styling Pack including front and rear bumper aprons, side sill mouldings and rear roof spoiler.

Other kit includes 19-inch, 10-spoke darkened alloys, leather seat facings, privacy glass and metallic paint.

At the same time the company is launching the equally arresting Range Rover Sport HST priced from £59,895.



CLASS ACT: The BMW 320d is the best-selling of the 3-Series which delivers power and economy, driver enjoyment, practicality and a long wheelbase with good rear legroom

Everyman's car keeps its exclusive features

FORD'S Mondeo used to be Britain's favourite car – now it struggles to get into the top-ten sellers' list.

Competition from MPVs and 4x4s has not helped, but the car that has inflicted most damage is the BMW 3-Series – the leader from a compact executive sector that has replaced the Mondeo in the affections of company car 'user choosers'.

We tested the best-selling version 320d version, which delivers power and economy, low emissions and tax efficiency, status, driver enjoyment and practicality. Our car was also the coveted £27,555 M Sport. It commands a premium of more than £5,000 over the 320d 'cooking version', but looks the business when the company car park pecking order matters.

The M package brings a sports version of the exemplary 3-Series chassis, parking sensors, cruise control, climate control, its own alloys, a subtle M Sport body kit, and M Sport door sills.

The star feature is the engine though. Straight six petrol units made BMW's name here, but the

ROAD TEST BMW 3-SERIES

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

163bhp 320d unit is every bit as impressive in today's 'squeeze the motorist dry' Britain.

With virtual petrol engine refinement it delivers pulling power across the range as the consummate all-rounder for town and country and relaxed (45mpg-plus) motorway cruiser, aided by a well-spaced and slick six-speed gearbox.

As generations of 3-Series have passed, BMW has extended the wheelbase to enhance balance and handling, so this sporty diesel eats up cross-country travel safely and securely, with little body roll.

However, this can also highlight a fidgety ride caused by run-flat tyres; BMW has ditched a spare wheel for extra boot space, but the drawback could outweigh the benefit.

Inside, the ergonomics are typically good with a clear dashboard layout, excellent seats and a fully adjustable steering wheel.

That long wheelbase also guarantees good rear legroom, though headroom is slightly compromised by the roofline – I can admire the car's abilities, but I cannot love its variation on today's distinctive yet rather ugly BMW design theme.

On the other hand, so many people disagree and top-ten sales speak volumes.



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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

MADE IN BRITAIN

WE may have lost our last major UK-owned car maker with the collapse of MG Rover, but the UK is still a major car manufacturing country. Admittedly, most cars produced here now have a Japanese badge on the front, but they generate many jobs within the car plants themselves and across a whole industry sector of homegrown suppliers. The products are also of high quality and good value and tend to soldier on well on the used market – check out this diverse yet reliable trio of leading Anglo-Japanese candidates.

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NISSAN MICRA



SUPERMINI design has become formulaic in recent years, so Nissan gains lots of credit for daring to be different with the Micra. It's an eye-catcher inside and out and facelifts have maintained its cheeky appeal. Engine options are impressive throughout the range, including some excellent Renault-sourced diesels. The Sunderland-built three and five-door line-up also includes a coupé convertible and lively and trendy Sport range with a flagship, the 160SR, to rival cars like the MINI One and Ford Zetec S.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

HONDA CR-V



HONDA's refined sports utility vehicle (SUV) gained a boost when the second generation line-up gained a much needed diesel option. This helped make it more popular even though it is not quite as stylish as its predecessor. It was also more spacious and capable, drove well, and was produced to a high standard at Honda's highly efficient Swindon plant. It was replaced recently by a smarter and less utilitarian CR-V that Honda hopes will avoid the environmental backlash against 4x4s.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

TOYOTA AVENSIS



TOYOTA has built three generations of its family car model at a plant near Derby, but the latest Avensis – following the first generation Avensis and dull Carina E – is more than just an ultra-reliable company hack with some good diesel options. There is much Lexus luxury engineering underneath, allowing the Avensis to attack the market share of the Ford Mondeo and Vauxhall Vectra. The estate drives well and carries a decent load too, though unadventurous styling keeps Avensis prices affordable.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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BENTLEY

CONTINENTAL GT, 2005, umbrin red met with saddle leather interior, 28000 miles, £64950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

BMW

3 SERIES, 320i, 39461, full leather, power steering, air conditioning, abs, air bag, immobiliser, remote central locking, multi-function steering wheel, 18" alloys, blue, 53000 miles, £12999, Marshalls, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

CHEVROLET

KALOS, 1.4 SX, finished in poly silver with grey interior manual, grey, 0 miles, £5995, Caffyns Turnbridge Wells Vauxhall, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

CHRYSLER

CROSSFIRE, 3.2 auto coupe, 2004, black with two tone grey leather, 17000 miles, £11950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

CITROEN

C3, 1.1i Desire 5dr, 2005, 1.1i desire 5dr hatch special edition, white, 10 miles, £6495, Wilmoths Ashford, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

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GRANDE PUNTO, anti-lock brakes, drivers airbag, electric windows, trip computer, bolero red, 18208 miles, £5995, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

FORD

FIESTA, 1.25 LX, 2004, insurance group 3 abs body coloured bumpers adjustment trip computer 1 owner service history, radiant red, 32000 miles, £5289, A1 Carriages, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.3 Flight, 2002, insurance group 6 alloy wheels body coloured bumpers central locking drivers airbag folding rear seats height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser power steering radio/cassette sunroof trip computer service history, pepper red, 47000 miles, £3000, A1 Carriages, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

HONDA

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ACCORD, I-Citi Executive, central locking, remote alarm, full leather, rear headrests, 81000 miles, £3999, Marshalls, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

HYUNDAI

COUPE 2.0, SE, 2002, silver, 129941 miles, £3995, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

GETZ, GSI 1.4, 2007, red, 2785 miles, £6995, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

ISUZU

TROOPER, Citation 3.5 V6 LWB, 1999 (1), auto, 5 door, stunning met green coachwork with contrasting velour trim, 2.8.4 wheel drive, alloy wheels, cd hi-fi, low bar and twin electric pack, stunning condition, £3995, Riviera Car Sales, Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

JAGUAR

S-TYPE, 3.0 V6 Auto, 1999, insurance group 15 abs alarm alloy wheels body coloured bumpers climate control immobiliser remote central locking side airbags traction control trip computer 2 owners service history, meteorite silver, 62000 miles, £5000, A1 Carriages, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

LANDROVER

DEFENDER, 110 TDI County Station Wagon, alarm, power steering, rear wash/wipe, side steps, tow pack, sunroof, cloth upholstery, 13" alloys, 4x4, black, 67000 miles, £11950, Diesel Centre, Staplehurst, 01580 890333 (TRADE)

MAZDA

MAZDA2, Sport 5dr, 636649, mazda mazda 5.2 0 sport 5dr mazda mazda Maidstone drake & fletcher blue, 2007, 5000 miles, manual, petrol, 5 doors, 1 previous owners, blue, £13989, Drake and Fletcher Mazda, Maidstone, 0845 130 3275 (TRADE)

MERCEDES-BENZ

230 SPORT KOMPRESSOR, 1998, fantastic car with full ivory leather interior.full sport pack. ilac/blue, 57,000 miles, £5999.00, Bob Fisher Garage, Ashford, 01303 814131 (TRADE)

NISSAN

ALMERA, Tino S 5dr, 5733079, remote central locking, alarm, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, adjustable steering column, cd player, radio, air conditioning, climate control, cloth upholstery, red, 41300 miles, £4695, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

ALMERA SE, Tino 2.0 CVT, 2002, blue, 43701 miles, £4495, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

PEUGEOT

PEUGEOT 306, R reg, 3-door, 2 tr XSi, Blue, 12,000 miles, MOT, tax, recent cambelt. £1,100 ono. Tel: 077793 862741 (PRIVATE)

2005 RENAULT CLIO 1.2 RUSH 3DR HATCHBACK

Manual, 26,000 miles, Black. 3x3 point rear seat belts, ABS, CD Player, Body coloured bumpers. Cloth seat trim. Drivers airbag. Full service history, TAX July, MOT Jan 2009 one owner from new. Tel: 077254 87771

£4,195 ONO

PORSCHE

911 CARRERA 4, 2002, meridian silver with blue leather, 46000 miles, £34950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

911 TURBO, 3.6 manual, 2003, black metallic with black leather, 17800 miles, £49950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

BOXSTER, 3.2s, 2002, rain forest green with neptune soft ruffled leather, 71000 miles, £13950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

RENAULT

SCENIC, 1.4 Authentique 5dr [AC], adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, central locking, passenger airbag, radio/cassette, power assisted steering, rear headrests, remote locking, side airbags, insurance group:4, blue, 20000 miles, £6994, SMC Mitsubishi Sittingbourne, Sittingbourne, 0844 5762476 (TRADE)

ROVER

25, Impression S 3 dr, a/04 bdx, rear wash/wipe, rear spoiler, remote central locking, alarm, immobiliser, electric front windows, electric mirrors, adjustable steering column, cd player, radio, air conditioning, abs, power steering, cloth upholstery alloy wheels, green, 32700 miles, £4295, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

SAAB

9-3, 1.8i Linear Convertible 2d 1998cc (2004), black, 28000 miles, £14495, Maidstone Saab, Snodland, 01634 246 750 (TRADE)

9-3, 2.0T Aero Convertible 2d 1998cc bsp (2004), ice blue, 4000 miles, £25995, Maidstone Saab, Snodland, 01634 246 750 (TRADE)

9-3, 1.8i Linear Convertible 2d 1998cc auto (2004), fushion blue, 6000 miles, £16995, Maidstone Saab, Snodland, 01634 246 750 (TRADE)

9-3, 1.9TD (120bhp) Linear Sport Saloon 4d 1910cc (2005), anniversary model, ice blue, 6000 miles, £17995, Maidstone Saab, Snodland, 01634 246 750 (TRADE)

9-3, 1.9TD (150bhp) Linear Sport Saloon 4d 1910cc (2005), espresso black, 31000 miles, £11495, Maidstone Saab, Snodland, 01634 246 750 (TRADE)

SEAT

IBIZA, Formula Sport 1.4 100PS 3dr, sept 2007, one previous keeper, power steering, remote central locking, climate control, electric windows, 5 speed gearbox, engine immobiliser, electricdoor mirrors, front fog lamps, tinted glass, rear wash/wipe, adj. steering column, seat height adjuster, sports seats, luna grey metallic, demo miles miles, £8,345, Hollis Motors, Dover, 01304 206710 (TRADE)

IBIZA, SX 1.2 12V 64PS 3dr, may 2005, two previous keepers, power steering, remote central locking, climate control, electric windows, 5 speed gearbox, engine immobiliser, front fog lamps, tinted glass, rear wash/wipe, adj. steering column, seat height adjuster, split rear seats, alloy wheels, platinum grey metallic, 18,500 miles, £5,895, Hollis Motors, Dover, 01304 206710 (TRADE)

IBIZA, SX 1.2 12V 64PS 3dr, may 2005, two previous keepers, power steering, remote central locking, climate control, electric windows, 5 speed gearbox, engine immobiliser, front fog lamps, tinted glass, rear wash/wipe, adj. steering column, seat height adjuster, split rear seats, alloy wheels, platinum grey metallic, 18,500 miles, £5,895, Hollis Motors, Dover, 01304 206710 (TRADE)

IBIZA, SX 1.2 12V 64PS 3dr, may 2005, two previous keepers, power steering, remote central locking, climate control, electric windows, 5 speed gearbox, engine immobiliser, front fog lamps, tinted glass, rear wash/wipe, adj. steering column, seat height adjuster, split rear seats, alloy wheels, platinum grey metallic, 18,500 miles, £5,895, Hollis Motors, Dover, 01304 206710 (TRADE)

SKODA

FABIA, Classic Htp 5dr, central locking, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, folding rear seats, rear wash/wipe, abs, blue, 12598 miles, £5995, Saunders Abbott, Sidcup, 020 8300 2450 (TRADE)

FABIA, Classic Htp 5dr, central locking, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, folding rear seats, rear wash/wipe, abs, blue, 12598 miles, £5995, Saunders Abbott, Sidcup, 020 8300 2450 (TRADE)

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FABIA, Classic Htp 5dr, central locking, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, folding rear seats, rear wash/wipe, abs, blue, 12598 miles, £5995, Saunders Abbott, Sidcup, 020 8300 2450 (TRADE)

FABIA, Elegance 16v 5dr, remote central locking, remote alarm, cloth upholstery, heated seats, twin air bags, radio cassette, grey, 13746 miles, £6795, Saunders Abbott, Sidcup, 020 8300 2450 (TRADE)

SUZUKI

WAGON R, Special, 53/2003, not to be missed, remote central locking, electric windows and mirrors, alarm radio/cd system with removable security fascia, alloy wheels, tated to october 2008, not to november 2008, excellent condition, reduced for quick sale at £3495, metallic blue, 32000 miles, £3495, Kent, 01843 840844 (PRIVATE)

SUZUKI JIMNY J1X, 09 2000, 1.2 p auto 4x4 estate red 45,000 miles, £2495, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

ALTO, 1.1 GL Hatchback 5dr, 04/2004, power assisted steering alloy wheels fog lights of player met black, 18000 miles, £3,995, Chertton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

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- Supporting a Head of House;
- Oversight of the examinations system;
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The successful applicant will:-

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- be enthusiastic and energetic;
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- have a commitment to providing a first class learning experience for all our students.

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The West Kent Public Rights of Way Team is looking for a new officer to join them to manage the Maidstone area network.

Responsible for a specific geographical area of the county, you will undertake a variety of operational duties particularly in respect to the maintenance and protection of public rights of way. A substantial proportion of the area sits within the Kent Downs area of outstanding natural beauty. You will work closely with landowners, local councils and other agencies. A significant proportion of your workload will come from the general public.

The post carries a high-volume workload. You will be able to juggle numerous competing priorities and adapt readily to the use of new technology. You will be a team player, have a good sense of humour and be educated to HND/Degree level in a related subject. The post also requires a high level of motivation, a good knowledge of rights of way law and practice and related countryside access issues and excellent organisational and communication skills. Ref: ER/08/0005
Interview date: 18th March 2008.

Day Centre Officer

Starting salary £15,665, with progression through contribution related pay to £20,211 per annum

You will support a group of adults with learning disabilities, in a community gardening project at Cranbrook. Similar projects may be developed in future to cover the High Weald villages, Paddock Wood and Tunbridge Wells.

You will need to have an interest in gardening and be able to work with individuals to develop their gardening skills and travel training as part of promoting their independence and moving on into employment. A knowledge of health and safety and risk assessments is required.

The ability to travel to the rural sites is essential.

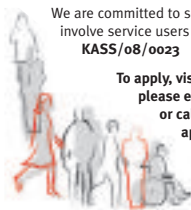
You should have experience in supporting people with learning disabilities in the community. An NVQ 3 in care would be an advantage.

This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

We are committed to service user and carer involvement and seek to involve service users and carers in our recruitment processes. Ref: KASS/08/0023

To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk, or call 0845 8247 904. Please quote the appropriate reference.

Closing date: 25th February 2008.



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Invicta at Gillingham have vacancies for

Pallet Makers

Please telephone
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for an interview

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DAY + NIGHT

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RING 01304 842380 QUOTE REF NO:ALV HA 01

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A REVOLUTION IN MEDIA

Our new local series of 'Your' newspapers was successfully launched in September 2007 and as part of our ongoing marketing and distribution campaign we now have openings for more Roadrunners.

Roadrunners

Opportunities are available to join our team of Roadrunners across a number of areas, handing our newspapers to the public at strategic points, and delivering copies to shops and businesses.

Each person will have an area and will be required to work a minimum of six hours every Wednesday morning only, from around 6.30am. The rate of pay is £6.50 per hour.

We will supply promotional clothing and back up support. You will need to be reliable, at ease talking to the public and capable of working under your own initiative. You must also be of smart appearance as you will be representing our award-winning company.



The areas involved are:
Canterbury, Thanet and Swale.

If you are interested, and would like a job description, please contact:

Barbara Coker on 01303 817072 or apply in writing to

Barbara Coker, Marketing and Distribution Manager,

KOS Media Ltd, Apple Barn,

Hythe Road, Smeeth,

Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR

or email: barbara.coker@kosmedia.co.uk



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NOR: 300
Head of School: Mrs Lynn Ibeji

T: 01227 710392 F: 01227 712370
E: office@spiresacademy.com

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Would you like to train to be a teacher in a supportive environment with excellent facilities and students who want to learn?

Then you may wish to join us from September 2008 as a

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Spires Academy opened in September 2007
to transform the life chances of students.

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The successful candidate will:

- be enthusiastic and motivated to inspire students to learn
- have a creative approach to children's learning
- be a team player
- have excellent organisational and communication skills
- have high standards for themselves and our students

We can offer you a challenging and rewarding career as part of our new Academy as we continue to offer our students the best opportunities and learning resources.

To apply for this position, please forward a letter of application together with a CV quoting ref: GTP101 by email to Marion Wington: m.wington@spiresacademy.com

Closing date: Noon Monday 25th February 2008

Come and be part of an enthusiastic, caring and dynamic team that supports our new Academy and inspires our community.

Twin Specialisms: Business & Enterprise and Visual, Creative & Performing Arts

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HMP BLANTYRE HOUSE AND
HMP EAST SUTTON PARK>

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FIRE SAFETY TECHNICIANS £22,041 - £24,113 PA

There are 3 posts: 1 for HMP Maidstone, 1 for HMYOI Rochester and 1 working between HMP Blantyre House and HMP East Sutton Park.
As a Fire Safety Technician, you will be expected to complete fire risk assessments as required under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (RRO) and other fire legislation e.g. the Dangerous Substances Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2002 (DSEAR) to carry out your duties in accordance with the establishment delivery plan and follow the requirements in PSO 3803 Fire Safety or as directed by your line manager. You will report directly to the Health & Safety Advisor and the Health & Safety Sponsor and you must deliver fire training as required in the PSO 3803.
You must hold a current Fire Extinguisher Trades Association Certificate for servicing portable fire extinguishers and be in possession of an IOSH Managing Safely qualification. A desirable requirement is that you hold or are prepared to work towards the NEBOSH National General Certificate. Experience of working in a prison fire safety environment would be advantageous.
You will be expected to work a 39 hour conditioned week excluding lunch breaks. This will include Saturdays, Sundays and Public and Privilege holidays as part of the normal working week.
Benefits include 25 days annual leave plus 10.5 days public and privilege holidays per annum and a Civil Service Pension by invitation.

To obtain a full job description and application pack please apply to: Kent & Sussex Area, Recruitment & Conference Centre, Sir Evelyn Road, Rochester, Kent ME1 3PZ. Telephone: 01634 673033. Fax: 01634 673050. Closing date for applications: 7 March 2008.

These posts are open to part-time and job share applicants. You will be required to declare whether you are a member of a group or organisation, which the Prison Service considers to be racist. The Prison Service is an equal opportunities employer. We welcome applications from candidates regardless of ethnic origin, religious belief, gender, age (subject to being within the normal retirement age for the grade), sexual orientation, disability or any other irrelevant factor.

NOMS National Offender
Management Service
Working together to reduce re-offending



Opportunities at



Shared Services Project Managers – Kent and Medway

The Kent Improvement Partnership promotes and facilitates collaboration between the councils in Kent and Medway with the purpose of improving services and value for money for residents.

The partnership's staff are hosted by Canterbury City Council, on behalf of the other Kent and Medway councils. Canterbury City Council is rated an Excellent Council and a Times Best Council To Work For. Terms and conditions include final salary pension scheme plus benefits.

Project Managers

£50,000 pa ■ Fixed term for two years (with a likely third year, subject to funding)

Kent Improvement Partnership is recruiting two, highly experienced, professional Project Managers to help drive forward a portfolio of key shared service improvement and efficiency activities across Kent and Medway local government.

You will have extensive experience as a project manager, in a public or private sector environment, delivering large, complex, change and improvement projects. Ideally, this should be where a number of organisations have collaborated to share service delivery.

You will have a clear knowledge of, and enthusiasm for, the government's improvement and efficiency agenda and an understanding of its impact on local authorities and their partner organisations.

You will be experienced in Prince2 project management methodologies and will have demonstrated the ability to deliver on time and within budget.

You will have strong interpersonal skills and the confidence to work closely at both Chief Executive/Member level and with project teams of middle managers in councils and partnership organisations.

Please quote job reference: 1760

Closing date for receipt of completed application forms: 12 noon, Friday 29 February 2008
Interviews and assessment process will take place on: Wednesday 19 March 2008

We prefer applications on-line. For further details of this position and all our latest opportunities and to apply on-line, visit our website at www.canterbury.gov.uk/jobs or e-mail jobs@canterbury.gov.uk. If you are unable to access the internet, telephone 01227 862 072 (24 hour answerphone).

We can supply application packs in Braille or large print format if required

We are an equal opportunities employer.

Putting people first



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Ashford branch Emma t: 01233 634242 e: ashford@hrgokent.co.uk

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Canterbury branch Michelle t: 01227 454239 e: canterbury@hrgokent.co.uk

Legal Secretary	£15.5k	Canterbury	Ref: KOSCA751
Quality Inspector	£14k	Whitstable	Ref: KOS000759
Purchase Ledger Clerk	£15k	Whitstable	Ref: KOSCA742
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Various Admin Roles	£7 p/h+	Sandwich	Ref: KOSPF001

Folkestone branch Natalie t: 01303 850729 e: folkestone@hrgokent.co.uk

Factory Team Leader	£31k	Folkestone	Ref: KOSFO944
Quality Team Leader	£31k	Folkestone	Ref: KOSFO945
Freight Forwarder	£18k	Dover	Ref: KOSFO930
Regulatory/Compliance Technologist	£26-27k	Folkestone	Ref: KOSFO946

Other branches:

Bromley 2nd Floor 25 Market Square Tel: 0208 460 8100	Chatham 10 Railway Street Tel: 01634 811494	Dartford 16 Hythe Street Tel: 01322 277555	Ramsgate 20 Queen Street Tel: 01843 591798
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With a network of seven branches across Kent, Recruitment company, HR GO Kent Ltd, has many exciting job opportunities to match every individual's needs. For further details on any of the jobs listed or to register please call your local branch.
www.hrgo.co.uk



We supply around 50 million litres of water a day to 160,000 people throughout the Folkestone and Dover area and as a water only supplier operate in an area that is completely reliant on underground sources.

We wish to recruit exceptional people to join our production maintenance team, could that be you? The maintenance team is responsible for the operation, planned and corrective maintenance of our mechanical and electrical plant and in so doing ensure our day to day supply of water.

Production Maintenance Team Leader

● This supervisory role is the ideal opportunity for you to lead a team of multi skilled technicians, providing your technical expertise and "hands on" support on a day to day basis.

You should be a competent Electrical/Mechanical Technician/Engineer with relevant academic qualifications and have some knowledge of instrumentation, control and automation. Ideally you will have water supply experience and if you also have relevant industrial / process industry experience that would be useful.

You should also possess appropriate leadership and/or first line supervisory skills, have some understanding of budget preparation and monitoring and be familiar with the use of computers.

Salary for the Team Leader role is up to £30,000 per annum (inclusive of management standby and call out duty) together with a company vehicle for business use.

Production Maintenance Technician (Electrical bias)

● You will join a dedicated and experienced team of technicians and undertake a range of planned and corrective maintenance of our mechanical and electrical plant.

You should be able to demonstrate a good working knowledge of 3 phase electrical systems, and IEE 16th Edition requirements, have a positive attitude and have some knowledge of instrumentation, control and automation.

Ideally you will have water supply experience and if you also have relevant industrial / process industry experience that would be useful. **Salary for the technician is in the region of £22,500 to £25,500 per annum (inclusive of standby, call out and overtime) together with a company vehicle for business use.**

For both roles you should be able to work at heights, in confined spaces and hold a full clean driving licence.

The Company operates a money purchase pension scheme, provides a generous holiday allowance and has a successful track record in providing excellent training and development opportunities.

If you would like to make an application please write, stating clearly the role for which you are applying, enclosing an up-to-date Curriculum Vitae with the names and addresses of two referees, one of which must be your current or most recent employer to:

Jennifer Mallinson, HR Business Partner, Folkestone & Dover Water Services Limited, The Cherry Garden, Cherry Garden Lane, Folkestone, KENT CT19 4QB Tel: 01303 298827

E-mail: jennifer.mallinson@fdws.co.uk

The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 22nd February



Join a winning team...

Ever considered a career with Kent Highway Services?

As part of Kent County Council, we are always looking to improve our service for the people of Kent.

In order to deliver in the best way - we need the best people. We now have a range of opportunities across the service, from customer relations to engineering posts.

If you have technical highway experience or have worked as part of a customer service team then we look forward to discussing these opportunities with you at the Dartford Jobs Fair at Becket Sports Centre in the grounds of Dartford Boys Grammar school on 21st February 2008 - doors open at 11am.

Keep an eye on

www.kent.gov.uk/jobs

for details of our vacancies.



Is this the job for you?

ACH is a fast-growing organisation, developing new, high-quality residential homes for adults with Learning Disabilities.

To help maintain our homes to the highest order we require now require a:

PAINTER and DECORATOR

Salary £23,000pa

plus company van and discretionary bonus

to join an established maintenance team in the
KENT AND SUSSEX AREA

For more information or an informal discussion please contact Chris Sasse,
Maintenance Manager on 07966 401046.

For an application pack please contact Human Resources on
tel: 020 8502 4466

ACH, Unit 2, Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane, Loughton,
Essex IG10 2QZ

E-mail: michelle.jenkins@achuk.com

TRAINING 4 CARE

Centred on excellence?

We are too

Training 4 Care (a partnership between South Kent College and Kent County Council) provides a large variety of subsidised training at all levels for everyone employed in the Private, Voluntary and Independent Care Sector throughout Kent.

As a Centre of Vocational Excellence, we are looking for candidates who take as much pride in their work as we do.

You will have experience in a relevant area of expertise and will be familiar with designing and delivering training courses in one or more of the subject specialisms below.

- Learning Disabilities Qualification
- First Aid, Health and Safety, Manual Handling and Food Hygiene
- Nursing: Dementia Awareness, Diabetes, Loss, Grieve and Bereavement and Parkinson Disease courses.

However, we would like to hear from you whatever your subject area is. As part of our commitment to staff, successful candidates will receive full support in gaining a training qualification if they do not already hold one. Contracts will be fixed-term until 31st March 2010.

The closing date for receipt of all completed application forms is
Monday 25th February 2008.

For further information including salary details and an application pack for any of the above vacancies, please contact the Human Resources Department on either 0845 207 8222 (24 hour answer phone), email humanresources@southkent.ac.uk or visit www.southkent.ac.uk

All posts are subject to a disclosure check by the Criminal Records Bureau.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all employees to share this commitment.

Applications are welcome from suitably qualified candidates regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexuality or religion.

**Early morning newspaper delivery drivers required in this area now!**

Must have own transport and mobile phone.

Earn between £50-£200 per week depending on size of round you wish to deliver. Immediate start available.

Call Dave on
08715085050

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**Early Years Advisory Teacher**

Starting salary £29,190, with progression through contribution related pay to £34,507 per annum

Clover House, Whitstable

Canterbury City and County Cluster work with the private and voluntary sector offering advice, challenge and support for Early Years settings.

You must be a qualified teacher with substantial Early Years experience with an excellent understanding and working knowledge of the Foundation Stage Curriculum and the needs of young children and their families. You must be able to demonstrate the ability to understand and work with a wide range of providers and external agencies.

Excellent interpersonal and communication skills are therefore essential.

Knowledge of additional and special education needs would be advantageous.

You must be prepared to travel around Canterbury City and the surrounding rural areas and beyond for training.

This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure application to the Criminal Records Bureau.
Ref: CFE/08/0044

Closing date: midday, 28th February 2008.

Development Officer

Starting salary £25,521, with progression through contribution related pay to £29,190 per annum

Shepway Centre, Maidstone

We have two exciting opportunities for you to join our team. One post is permanent covering the West Kent area. The second post is temporary until March 2009 and will co-ordinate our project with Extended Services to develop parent forums across Kent.

We believe that good communication between all those involved in a child's education is key to good relationships which will help children achieve.

With exceptional communication skills, you will be committed to promoting good communication between parents, schools and agencies and increasing parental involvement.

You will need excellent oral and written communication skills, experience of developing partnerships with a wide range of people and of working with parents, project management skills and knowledge of AEN and SEN processes.

Supervision will be provided.

This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.
Ref: CFE/08/0055

Closing date: midday, 3rd March 2008.

Senior Partnership Officer (Naturally Active)

Starting salary £22,268, with progression through contribution related pay to £25,521 per annum

Fixed Term Contract to November 2010**Dartford**

Following recent success in securing three years funding from Big Lottery, the North West Kent Countryside Partnership is recruiting a Senior Partnership Officer to deliver the Naturally Active programme.

Naturally Active is a ground-breaking project aimed at addressing healthcare issues through a stimulating programme of events, using the countryside as a focus for delivery. You will be working with healthcare professionals, community leaders, and commercial providers to engage people in a range of activities that will benefit their health and wellbeing.

You will be a highly motivated individual capable of acting on your own initiative and generating enthusiasm in others. Ideally, you will have experience in both countryside and healthcare but, more importantly, you will be a successful project manager, a strong communicator, and able to work sensitively at both a strategic and personal level.

You will need a qualification in a health, or environment, related discipline and experience in a leadership role. A self-starter, with a can-do approach, you will be able to manage and develop projects effectively, on budget and on time.

This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.
Ref: ER/08/0006

Closing date: midday, 3 March 2008.

Interview date: 14 March 2008.

To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904. Please quote the appropriate reference.



A great place to work.
Our services aren't the same,
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Good Schools Guide: Ashford is set to become a top-notch co-ed school catering for that neglected breed, ordinary children, as well as for the higher flier



ASHFORD

700 boys and girls aged 3-18;
senior school of 370 pupils with 120+ boarders

SCIENCE TECHNICIAN & DEMONSTRATOR June 2008

This is an exciting opportunity for an energetic and capable person to join our successful Science Department of eight specialist teachers and three technicians, taking specific responsibility for Physics. Applications are welcomed from candidates with a science or engineering background; training will be provided. The role of Senior Technician may be available for suitably qualified candidates.

Ashford School completes its transition to full coeducation in 2009 when boys move into Year 11; the Sixth Form welcomed boys in 2007; day and boarding (no Saturday lessons); good facilities and resources, with interactive whiteboards in every classroom. Academic standards are high and staff are highly committed to the school and its pupils.

For an application form and further information, please contact: Mrs Anne Rylands, Head's PA, Ashford School, East Hill, Ashford, Kent TN24 8PB. Tel: 01233 739032 email: rylandsa@ashfordschool.co.uk www.ashfordschool.co.uk
Closing date for receipt of applications: **Friday 29 February 2008**



United Church Schools Trust
100 years 1883-2008

Ashford School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening, including checks with past employers and the CRB. Ashford School is a member of The United Church Schools Trust. Registered Charity No. 1016358

Senior Carers | £7.20 – £12.96 per hour

Carers | £6.10 – £11.00 per hour

Domestic Carers | £5.75 per hour

Hourly rate dependent on shifts
25p per mile travelling expenses – own car essential

Maidstone

Could you help us provide high-quality care for older people in their own homes? Then join the Saga Independent Living team.

To join us as a Senior Carer you will need to bring relevant experience and an NVQ Level 3 qualification.

You can look forward to an excellent benefits package including a great salary, flexible hours, pension scheme, discounts on Saga Insurance products, paid holiday, free uniform and equipment.

So if you could help us provide the best possible care for older people, please call 01303 771717 for an application form.

An enhanced CRB check will be undertaken for these roles.

SAGA
Caring done properly

KCA (UK) is an expanding and vibrant organisation providing a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services. Founded in 1975 and currently employing over 300 paid and unpaid staff, it has an annual income of £11 million and is becoming established as one of the leading service providers in the South East Region.



REF: 469 - EVALUATION ASSISTANT FAVERSHAM

Salary: £14,492 - £16,217 (SCP 12-17)

37 hours per week

Temporary Post initially until 31 October 2008

You will be a key member of the Psychological Therapies Team, based at KCA's Faversham office. This role requires proficiency in data input and experience in using Microsoft Office. You will also be the first point of contact for clients and staff contacting the office so will need to respond to people in a professional manner and have good communication skills.

Whilst the vacancy is currently for six months, there may be an opportunity to extend the contract. If you have any queries about the role please contact Smita Derodra on 01795 590212.

Closing date: 3rd March 2008

Interview date: 13th March 2008

Application forms are available from KCA (UK), Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT. Tel: 01795 590635, Fax: 01795 539351, Email marina@kca.org.uk, Web site www.kca.org.uk.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse.

Charity No: 292824

HR Manager

£30-40k dependent on experience



The Kings Ferry is Kent's largest coach operator and now part of the National Express worldwide organisation.

As HR Manager for The Kings Ferry you will be responsible for all HR and personnel issues for a workforce of 90+ drivers and 40+ support staff.

You will work with the Senior Management Team, advising them and Line Managers on HR and Employment Law matters, developing and integrating policies and procedures to meet changes in legislation and promote transport industry best practices.

As Head of the Quality Department you will also manage a team of five staff with direct responsibilities for Driver Recruitment, Training and Development, Health and Safety and Customer Service.

A proactive, 'can do' approach and the ability to maintain strong staff relations and the reputation of a highly respected organisation are essential.

Whilst a CIPD generalist qualification would be useful, proven success in a commercial operation, commitment and vision are most important to succeed in this role.

Please forward your CV including current salary and expectations to Claire Keith, The Kings Ferry, The Travel Centre, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 6HW.

Hotel Night Manager

Experienced individual required to manage night team, including Reception, Security, Health & Safety and setting of function and conference rooms reporting directly to the Deputy Manager.

Hotel Night Porter

Responsibilities to include Reception, Security, Health & Safety and setting of conference and function rooms to a high standard.

Competitive salary along with benefits

Please send Curriculum Vitae for both positions to Denise Collins at Oakwood House, Oakwood Park, Maidstone, Kent, ME16 8AE

AppleMac Designer/Operator

We are a small advertising and design agency based in Ashford and are seeking to recruit an AppleMac designer/operator.

Applicants should be self-motivated, with a minimum 12 months practical experience working with Quark, Illustrator and Photoshop. Website design would be an advantage. Salary would be negotiable dependent on experience.

Interested applicants should send or e-mail their CV to:

AH Creative Limited
15 North Street,
Ashford Kent TN24 8LF
t: 01233 650888
e-mail: info@ah-creative.co.uk

Print Sales Executive

RK Graphics is a leading litho and digital printing company, based in Dover, for the past 25 years. With a successful portfolio of clients and creative approach, we are now looking to expand our sales team to meet our business requirements.

We are seeking an experienced print sales executive, with a proven track record in this industry and can demonstrate a hands-on as well as active approach to managing design and print requirements for our customers and have the ability to seek new business opportunities.

This position comes with the ability to progress and become part of the management team at RK Graphics.

An excellent salary, bonus and performance related package is offered.

In the first instance, please send your CV with covering letter to: Roger Knight, RK Graphics Limited, Graphic House, Honeywood Road, Whitfield, Dover, Kent CT16 3EH or email admin@rkgraphics.co.uk



Committed To Conservation

Seasonal Staff Recruitment Fairs 1st & 2nd March 2008

Howletts and Port Lympne Parks are home to some of the world's most endangered and rare animals. As a charity organisation we rely on the money raised from visitors to our parks to fund our vital animal conservation work.

We are staging recruitment fairs to recruit temporary staff to provide essential extra support during our busy season from March to October.

If you would like to join our dedicated team of staff and help contribute to the work and continuing success of the parks come along to our recruitment open days and find out more about the following seasonal jobs on offer.

We need: retail sales assistants, admissions staff, gardeners and grounds staff, catering staff, safari trailer drivers, chefs & waiting staff, animal presenters and volunteers to help in our dedicated education centres. Experience isn't always necessary, as full training will be provided.

(Please note: we do not recruit seasonal animal keeping staff).

Howletts Wild Animal Park (Near Canterbury)

Saturday 1st March - 9.00am - 12.30pm

Port Lympne Wild Animal Park (Near Hythe)

Sunday 2nd March - 9.00am - 12.30pm

For more information please visit our web site: www.totallywild.net or phone the HR Department 01303 234178

KOS Media, publisher of the award-winning Kent on Sunday, the Saturday Observer, and our new midweek titles and associated websites, has vacancies for

Freelance and full-time sub-editors

Candidates must have excellent QuarkXpress skills and be competent at using Photoshop. You will be able to spot a typo at 100 paces and be able to write attention-grabbing headlines.

Trainee sub-editors

Are you a reporter who wants to move onto the subs' desk? KOS Media is looking for trainee subs who want the challenge of maintaining the high production standards on our award-winning newspapers. You will bring a reporter's experience and instincts, and we will provide the training you need to produce first-class pages.

• To apply, send a CV and covering letter to: Dave Hobday, Head of Subbing or email dave.hobday@kosmedia.co.uk.



KOS
media

Award winning publications
www.kentnews.co.uk

KOS Media
Apple Barn
Hythe Road, Smeeth
Kent TN25 6SR

Director of MIS

Ref: S2117

Salary: circa £41-46k

We are seeking an exceptional individual to join us at South Kent College. Our senior management team is working to transform the College and we are looking for a skilled and experienced MIS manager with leadership potential who can transfer their skills to this challenging and pivotal role. You will be ambitious and keen to develop your skills whilst leading the MIS, Learner Records and Exams teams through audits and encouraging those teams to further develop their relationships with the curriculum areas.

Ideally educated to degree level or in possession of equivalent qualification and/or relevant experience, you will have a proven track record in managing and motivating people through periods of change in combination with budgetary and resourcing expertise and of course a thorough understanding of funding mechanisms, strategies and issues affecting FE in the post-14 and post-16 arena. Previous experience of working with the Unit-E MIS software would be an advantage, but is not essential.

If this role is the challenge you are looking for and you want to make a difference and a real contribution to Further Education in Kent, then to find out more call Andrina Smith, HR Director on 01303 858227 for an informal discussion.

Alternatively, contact Gemma Candy, HR Assistant straight away for an application pack on either 01303 858271, 0845 207 8222 (24 hour answer phone) or email humanresources@southkent.ac.uk

Applications are welcome from individuals seeking either a permanent post or who are interested in a fixed-term appointment of 18 months.

The closing date for receipt of all completed application forms is Thursday 28th February 2008.

All posts are subject to a disclosure check by the Criminal Records Bureau.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all employees to share this commitment.

Applications are welcome from suitably qualified candidates regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexuality or religion.



South Kent College
ASHFORD • DOVER • FOLKESTONE

MEDWAY TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES



PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Teacher

Brompton Westbrook

Foundation Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required from: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 3 March 2008
To apply/more information
Mrs Claire Knight
Brompton Westbrook
Kings Bastion
Brompton
Gillingham
Kent ME7 5DQ
Telephone - (01634) 844152
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Skinner Street Primary School

Year 5 teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Temporary
Term of Contract: Maternity Cover
Required From: 21 April 2008
Closing date: 29 February 2008
To apply/more information
School Office
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Telephone - (01634) 850213
Email office@skinnerst.medway.sch.uk

Deputy Headteacher

Fairview Community Primary

Deputy Headteacher
Salary: LS 10 - 14 £43656 - £48138
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 14 March 2008
To apply/more information
Fairview Community Primary School
Debbie Willis
Headteacher
Drewery Drive
Wigmore
Gillingham
Kent ME8 0NU
Telephone - (01634) 338710
Email headteacher@fairviewprimary.medway.sch.uk

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Teacher

Sir Joseph Williamson Mathematical School

History Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full time and fixed term
Contract: 2 Terms
Required From: 21 April 2008
To apply/more information
Ms Jacqueline Harrison
Sir Joseph Williamson's
Mathematical School,
Maidstone Road,

Rochester,
Kent ME1 3EL
Telephone - (01634) 844008
E-mail harrisonj@sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk

Chatham South

English Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 25 February 2008
To apply/more information
Maureen Chipperfield
Chatham South
Letchworth Avenue
Chatham
Kent ME4 6NT
Telephone - (01634) 404277
Email chipm002@medway.org.uk

The Hundred of Hoo

Teacher of English
Job Ref: Eteach/kmc/010208/eng
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required from: April or September 2008
Closing date: 25 February 2008
To apply/more information
Kirsty Cruttenden
The Hundred of Hoo
Comprehensive School
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Rochester
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Telephone - (01634) 251443
Email crutk001@medway.org.uk

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Teacher of Geography
Job Ref: Eteach/kmc/geog/010208
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required from: April or September 2008
Closing date: 25 February 2008
To apply/more information
Kirsty Cruttenden
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Full Time and Permanent
Required From: April or September 2008
Closing date: 25 February 2008
To apply/more information
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To apply/more information
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Closing date: 25 February 2008
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Teacher of Art
Eteach/kmc/010208/art
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Required from: April or September 2008
Closing date: 25 February 2008
To apply/more information
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The Thomas Aveling School

English Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 21 April 2008
Closing date: 25 February 2008
To apply/more information
Richard Hart
Headteacher
The Thomas Aveling School
Aethusa Road
Rochester
Kent ME1 2UW
Telephone - (01634) 844809
Email office@thomasaveling.co.uk

The Thomas Aveling School

Teacher of Physical Education (Female)
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 25 February 2008
To apply/more information
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The Thomas Aveling School
Aethusa Road
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Kent ME1 2UW
Telephone - (01634) 844809
Email office@thomasaveling.co.uk

Chatham Grammar School for Girls

RE Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 7 March 2008
To apply/more information
Emma Chilmaid
Chatham Grammar School for Girls
Rainham Road
Chatham
Kent ME5 7EH
Telephone - (01634) 851262
Fax - 01634 571928
Email chile001@medway.org.uk

Chatham Grammar School for Girls

Teacher of Latin
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 14 March 2008

To apply/more information

Emma Chilmaid
Chatham Grammar School for Girls
Rainham Road
Chatham
Kent ME5 7EH
Telephone - (01634) 851262
Fax - 01634 571928
Email: chile001@medway.org.uk

New Brompton College

English Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 5 March 2008
To apply/more information
Sue Moss
Business Manager
New Brompton College
Marlborough Road
Gillingham
Kent ME7 5HT
Telephone - (01634) 852341
Fax - 01634 853574
Email suemoss@nbc.medway.sch.uk

New Brompton College

Science Teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
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To apply/more information
Sue Moss
Business Manager
New Brompton College
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Contract: 1 Year
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 10 March
To apply/more information
Eliot Hodes, Assistant Headteacher
Sir Joseph Williamson's
Mathematical School,
Maidstone Road,
Rochester,
Kent ME1 3EL
Telephone - (01634) 844008
E-mail harrisonj@sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk

Head of Department Chatham South

Head of ICT
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR c
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 25 February 2008

To apply/more information

Maureen Chipperfield
Chatham South
Letchworth Avenue
Chatham
Kent ME4 6NT
Phone: 01634 404277
Email: chipm002@medway.org.uk

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Subject Leader in English
Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR 1b (£9,981)
Full Time and Permanent
Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing date: 10 March 2008
To apply/more information
Mr A J Reese
Headteacher
Greenacre School
(A Specialist Sports College)
Bradfields Avenue
Chatham
Kent ME5 0LE
Telephone - (01634) 861593
Fax - 01634 869246
Email: office@greenacre.medway.sch.uk

Head of Year

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Required From: 1 September 2008
Closing Date: 26 February 2008
To apply/more information
Mr Paul Jackson
Deputy Head
The Robert Napier School
Third Avenue
Gillingham
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Telephone - (01634) 851157

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Required From: 1 September 2008
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Office Manager
Rivermead
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Gillingham
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An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: The Weald of Kent,
Maidstone Road, Headcorn
Applicant: Mr Paul Street

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below between the hours of 9am and 5pm. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Martin Alford
Head of Registration, Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall,
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with Business Editor
TONY PATEY

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LAKE Communications is behind a new initiative allowing local businesses the opportunity to conduct proper market research at a fraction of the cost.

Local Opinion is an online panel of respondents who have been professionally recruited by trained interviewers.

Companies can conduct research throughout Kent or within individual areas either by including questions within the main surveys or using the panel for their own surveys.

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Local Opinion and Lake Communications operate under the Market Research Code of conduct and all interviewers are trained to either IQCS or ISO20252 international standard.

For details call 01732 874 054 or email info@localopinion.co.uk.

Park to host travel fair

PORT Lympne Wild Animal Park has been selected as one of the venues for the Tourism South East Group Travel Fairs.

The Fair, on Saturday, February 23, will be open from 10.30am to 2.30pm, and more than 50 exhibitors will be attending including the National Maritime Museum and the Royal Botanic Gardens.

For more details call 02380 625516.

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businessforkent.co.uk

Your LOCAL TV ONLINE



TV's Gemma Humphries tries out the True Grip Off Road experience

Don't dismiss the pitfalls of missing work for football

■ BY TONY PATEY

WORKERS are being urged not to score an own goal by throwing a sickie during this year's Euro 2008 football tournament.

Amanda Finn, of Gullands solicitors in Maidstone, says that, although the UK does not have a presence in football's second biggest showpiece event, many employers are already worrying about the employment issues that will undoubtedly arise.

She says: "Without wishing to be killjoys, how can they deal with the issues that arise from absences which may affect their ability to maintain business as usual?"

"As a starting point it is a good idea to remind all staff of the company policy for requesting time off and notification of sickness absence.

"An employer does not have to accept a holiday request, but it is important that all staff are treated fairly and consistently."

Here's her advice to employers:

"If you do decide to make allowances for changes in hours to accommodate matches then it is important to stress this is a temporary arrangement and that employers deal with other staff requests, not football related, with similar sympathy.

"Without seeking to make assumptions

about the gender of football fans, it is likely that if an employer has agreed to a small alteration in hours for many male employees, a refusal of a request for alteration to a female member of staff's hours for other reasons could lead to claims of discrimination.

"If the company is going to take a hard line in relation to sickness absence during Euro 2008 it is important employees are told about this prior to the event and that the procedure does not depart from any contractual scheme.

"Employers will have to be very sure of their facts to take disciplinary action and in any event should be careful to follow the statutory disciplinary procedures to avoid a trip to the employment tribunal.

"And what of the worst case scenario? An employee who has taken holiday to attend the matches is involved in violence. What can the employer do then? The answer is not as straightforward as you might imagine.

"Behaviour which takes place in an employee's own time may not give an employer sufficient justification for dismissal."

If you need guidance contact Amanda Finn at Gullands on 01622 678341 or by email at a.finn@gullands.com



Picture: APX

DANGERS: Don't trip up like Cristiano Ronaldo when it comes to handling your employees during Euro 2008



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Sailors eye Beijing gold

OLYMPIC sailing champion Sarah Ayton retained the Angling World Championship in style at Miami last week.

Ashford-born Ayton and her crew of Sarah Webb and Pippa Wilson stormed to the title with a day to spare. The trio, who earned the nod for the Olympics after winning both the 2007 World Championships and the Olympic Test Event in Qingdao, dominated the 28-boat fleet since the first day of the regatta.

They secured gold after gaining an unassailable lead on the penultimate day of racing in Biscayne Bay.

The trio now have their eyes on achieving a gold medal in the Beijing Olympics.

VIEW THIS CLIP ON

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Your LOCAL TV ONLINE



Gills manager Mark Stimson admits the club are now in a relegation scrap

Victory keeps Town in third

TWO quick-fire first-half goals helped Ashford Town reserves secure a win on their return to league action after a month's break.

There was a new addition to the starting line up at the Homelands, as left back Aaron Freeman was in action in a bid to regain match fitness before his return to the first team.

It took just three minutes for Ashford to take the lead against Deal, when James Humphrey's cushioned header easily evaded the Deal goalkeeper.

On 12 minutes, Ashford increased their lead. John Ralph's pass was turned into the goal by Scott Penfold.

Ian Batten's goal in the second half secured the victory for Ashford. He pounced on a loose ball in the Deal area before firing into the roof of the net.

The result keeps Ashford in third place in Kent League Division Two. They are ten points behind leaders Dover Athletic who have won all their games so far this season.



FIVE-GOAL THRILLER: Town defender Daniel Braithwaite (left) set up Danny Lye (right) for the first of his two goals against a resilient Burgess Hill Town at the weekend

Late Lye winner earns Town all three points

A LATE winner from Danny Lye proved just enough to clinch the three points for Ashford Town as they halted a spirited fight back from Burgess Hill Town.

The first half was a dull affair, but it was lit up by Lye. On 33 minutes a long free kick by Jamie Riley found Daniel Braithwaite in the area and his pass to Lye was coolly finished.

The visitors took the one-goal lead into the break. Early in the second half, Ashford increased their lead with a thumping header from Nick Humphrey after he met a good Mitchell Sherwood corner.

However, the two-goal lead did not last long as nine minutes later Burgess Hill were thrown a lifeline. The Ashford defence failed to deal with a dangerous ball into the box and Nick Fogden stabbed the ball home.

The goal galvanised the side and they

FOOTBALL

BY TOM HOWARD

Burgess Hill Town 2 Ashford Town 3

equalised through Steve Harper. As both teams entered the final ten minutes level, it was Ashford who were able to find a winning goal. An acrobatic cross from Walid Matata was drilled into the roof of the net by Lye.

Town boss Steve Lovell said: "It was an exciting match for the neutral, but not so for the managers."

"We were 2-0 up and cruising before we relaxed and Burgess Hill came back into the match with two goals. It was simply just a lack of concentration which let them back into the match. In the second half we created a lot and should have won the game by more goals."

"The players showed a lot of character not to get beaten when Burgess Hill equalised. Jamie Riley was back in goal which was a boost. He didn't have an awful lot to do apart from conceding the two goals. I think he was just enjoying being in the sunshine really."

"Sean Ray was also back and it was good to see him as the side have missed him. He is a natural leader and without him, we struggle."

The result moves Ashford Town to within two points of 12th-placed Burgess Hill Town. The Nuts and Bolts host Croydon Athletic on Saturday as they look to close the gap on the play-off positions.

Lovell added: "We have so many games coming up that I will have to use everyone. However, I will not chop and change my side too much and I will expect to field the same side in our next match."

• **Lovell's side were in action against Chatham Town last night. For a full match report see www.yourashford.co.uk.**



EDGING CLOSER: Ashford secured another victory as they continue their quest for promotion

Clubs warm to merger plan

THE proposed merger between Ashford Town Cricket Club and Ashford Hockey Club is a fantastic opportunity, according to hockey club chairman Ian Thomas.

Just last month, the merger between the two clubs was tabled following a new development planned to be built on the Ball Lane site, home to both the cricket and hockey clubs.

Bovis Homes hopes to build a new housing estate and has offered to build a new sports facility behind its site to accommodate the two clubs.

The proposed plan includes three astro pitches for the hockey club plus a cricket pitch.

HOCKEY

Both the hockey and the cricket clubs held meetings last week to discuss the possibility of a merger.

However, both clubs want more financial information before deciding if the opportunity will be viable.

Thomas said: "The meeting was good in a way as it has aired a few arguments, but on the whole most people are in favour of the merger."

"We will need some more financial information before it can go ahead. We do not want to say yes if we find out later we cannot cope."

"I believe it is a fantastic opportunity for the club to expand and

move to a brand new facility, which we do need. At the moment, we have 11 teams using the pitches and the ground is starting to look tired."

Ashford men's first XI continued their push for promotion with a 5-1 win against Folkestone. Their nearest rivals Worthing also won convincingly 5-2. The result has kept the pressure on Ashford as they only have a five-point lead in the Kent & Sussex League.

On Saturday, Ashford travel to play Marden Russets who are in the bottom three in the league. As Marden have suffered nine defeats this season, Ashford will be confident of another victory.

Too little too late as injuries strike again

RUGBY

BY YOURASHFORD REPORTER

Ashford 14 Old Olavians 24

A SLOW start and losing players to injury were again the principal reasons for Ashford's defeat at the weekend.

The home side were put under extreme pressure from the start and were unable to get out of their own half for the first ten minutes.

Old Olavians made their dominance pay with a try on 12 minutes, after a well-worked move allowed their inside centre a passage through the Ashford defence. The conversion was successful.

Conceding a try seemed to stir the home side and on 18 minutes, JJ Murray collected the ball in his own half and went on a superb run leaving four defenders trailing in his wake. He fed the ball to Pete Walsh who played in Trevor Marama to go in under the posts. Murray converted easily to level the score.

Things began to fall apart, however, when for the second week in a row Karl Harding was sin binned for lashing out at an opposition player.

Minutes later, a kick through by Olavians bounced in front of Duncan McKay and with a terrible bounce popped back into the hands of the Olavians winger who was clean through to go in under the posts. The conversion was a formality and put Old Olavians up 14-7.

Olavians kicked off the second half and after only two minutes, they further extended their lead with a similar try to their previous one.

Ashford's injury jinx then struck again.

In the space of ten minutes, they had to replace scrum-half Shane Bushell, inside centre Walsh and full-back JJ Murray, all through injury.

The visitors capitalised and put together a flowing move to score their fourth try with just 15 minutes of the second half played.

Ashford regrouped and scored a try of their own again through Marama, which was converted by Harding, but it proved too late.



INJURY JINX: Ashford's hopes were dashed again by injuries to key players as they lost at home to Old Olavians

Crusader find path to final

SUNDAY LEAGUE

THE CRUSADER are into the final of the Division Two Cup after they overcame Market Hotel reserves 4-3 in extra-time.

They led 2-1 with goals from Kris Leigh and Chris Shanney, only for Dave Hoover to equalise with minutes to spare in normal time.

Iain Fellows and another Shanney goal confirmed Crusader's win in extra-time, while Ronnie Williams scored a late consolation for Market.

Aldington reserves and Wye Monarchs progressed to the final of the Division Three Cup.

Aldington went through comfortably 4-1 against Galacticos. Steve Rice put Galacticos ahead but Chris Linkins scored to make it all square at half-time.

Kevin Ruane, Stuart Lambourne and Matt Beasley all added goals in the second half as Aldington cruised into the final.

Wye Monarchs went through after beating Newchurch 3-2 after

extra-time. Lee Bloxham gave Wye the lead before Newchurch came back strongly to score twice in the first ten minutes of the second half; both goals coming from Gavin Prowse.

Pat Law levelled things up from the penalty spot to take the game into extra-time where Lee Hughes pounced on a mistake to put Wye through.

Troggs caused an upset in the Ashford Charity Trophy by winning their quarter-final tie with Bethersden 3-1. Goals from Marcus Pearce, Adam Roffey and George Dyke saw them through, while Tim Simms was on target for Bethersden.

In the Premier Division, Bromley Green trounced old rivals Market Hotel 7-0. Striker Marcus Hodges led the way with four goals, Lee Milton hit a brace and there was also one for Kevin Barratt.

Brewmaster picked up all of the points with a 4-0 home win over Lydd, courtesy of a Danny Jennings brace and one each for Dan Abrahams and Justin Light.



EXIT: Bethersden (in white) were knocked out the Ashford Charity Trophy by Troggs

yourashford

HOME SWEET HOMELANDS



HAPPY AT HOMELANDS: Striker Paul Jones wants to see out his career with Ashford Town

Jones: 'Town will taste success'

IN-FORM Ashford Town hitman Paul Jones has pledged his future to the club.

Since Steve Lovell made Jones one of his first signings for the club, the former Folkestone Invicta forward has turned in some impressive displays, showing great hold-up play and pace, but he is delighted just to be playing again.

He said: "It's great to be back. Personally I had to take a bit of time out of football because of work commitments, but now that I'm back fit and playing, I'm delighted."

"The ambition shown by Don [Crosbie] and Steve [Lovell] made it an easy decision to come back to Ashford, it's a good progressive club that are going places and it's great to be a part of it."

Jones is under no illusions that last week's home defeat to Walton & Hersham was damaging, but the 3-2 win over Burgess Hill Town means the club hasn't completely ruled out the play-offs.

He said: "It was a bad result. I've had a look at the table and it seems we are a little way off the pace, but we will keep going and give it our best shot."

"The Ashford fans haven't had much to cheer about over the last couple of seasons, so a solid top half finish would show good progression."

Manager Lovell has installed a new sense of belief in the players and Jones reveals that in the changing room, the gaffer is full of encouragement.

"Before the game he gives us great belief," he said. "He tells us to have faith in our own abilities, and I think that it's beginning to show out on the pitch."

The striker has made Ashford his home now and after seeing the buzz around the club he is happy to commit his future to the Nuts and Bolts.

"Ashford is my local club now and I couldn't be happier here," he said.

"I have no doubt that we can progress forward. I'm a loyal player and want to stay here for as long they want me, to be honest. My great ambition is to be a part of the success I am sure the club is going to have."

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